28
97

Henry Hanson's Discourses in Public Meeting at Watervliet, 1852.

Eld Geles

Copied by Joseph W. Babe.
Of Mt. Lebanon N.Y.
Shaker Community

France

A communication from John Rousseau

Henry Hanson Medium

O France! O France, my own beloved France, what hast thou done to merit this fate? why are thy cities destroyed to the foundation? why are thy people fleeing from the midst of thy smoking ruins? why are thy Olives, thy vines, and thy flowers, and every thing that formed thy beauty blighted, so that the nightingale can find no place to sing her plaintive song, save some pendant willow as it droops over a hidden tomb.—

But a little while ago a sweet but melancholy joy filled my soul; I glowed with celestial enthusiasm, because I saw my country free & glorious and a future of new beauty spread itself before her! — The idea that she had suffered so much made me hope she would prove herself worthy of liberty and I was happy. I beheld her the great focus of the creative power of Europe, the center of moden republicanism — I saw her sitting alone as it were in her greatness and calling the oppressed, the down trodden & crucified Pilgrims of the Old world to follow he example. Wounded but living — illtreated but hoping — suffering but not powerless — they raised the standard of European nationality, at the very time an infamous usurper trailed the ensign of France in the dust, trampled upon every moral principle, impeded all social progress, murdered the people and assasinated the Republic. Without any trait of manhood, without any appreciation of the transcendent

destinies of the race, carrying an Arnolds treachery in his bosom and stamped with the meaness of a Demon — an incomparable murderer — a liar and gambler; why O France hast thou degraded thyself by licking the bloody dust from his feet and welcoming him with base hurrahs? — You shall be scourged for you have sustained him in wrong; you have made yourselves the foes of liberty, the destroyers of peace, the poisoners of happiness, and have fitted yourselves to become the companions of the basest mercenaries, in as much as you have shared the company and partook of the orgies of the greatest and most heartless criminal of the age

We know there is no magic in the name of a traitor, no vicarious dignity and selfrespect which can guard the wearers of an Arnolds badge from a degradation for which they have an original penchant.

But the nations ye have surprized & bayonetted and gagged, the nation which has got drunk with your adulation till it wallows at your feet shall not long be identified with your memory, shall not be confounded with that effigy of infamy, that putrid villian which merciless history will henceforth hang up as branded with his name. Nay, there are those yet living of gallic origen, who shall hold you ameniable to the supreme laws of Justice & Honor; — who stand ready to avenge in the face of the world the calamity we lament — Imprisoned, exiled and banished tho they are I bid them be of good cheer; the storm will pass over, the tide will turn,

the second of December is only an illusion – a pause – a breathing time – a drop curtain behind which God the marvelous machinist is preparing and constructing the last, the supreme, the triumphant act in the French revolution –

With the gullontine and scaffold in view, with the blood of your best friends streaming around you; tho liberty is trodden in the dust and perjuries occupy the place of justice; tho pimps tenant your palaces and traitors are at the helm of State, again I say be of good cheer, for a government begot by violence shall perish by the same, a government raised by crime shall be destroyed by right – The Pope that annoints the altar and the usurper that he annoints shall meet the like doom; for the dark night and black shade God has drawn over them is but the ground color of a beautiful piece which is at this instant exposed to the light of the spirit world The rose now drooping shall raise its lovely head more fragrant and more brilliant than before.

1st Ye who seek mankind to save
Men of soul and men of nerve,
Men who will not meanly swerve,
Marshal in your moral might.
Come from valley hill and plain,
Leave your fields of ripening grain,
Leave your marts of tempting gain
And battle for the right.

2

Greece light up thy altar fires
Rise Italia's noblest sires
Rise and win your blessed desires
Nurtured by a martyrs blood
Switzerland to freedom born
Sound aloud thine alpine horn
And to truths pure mandate swarm
Stay oppressions threatening flood

3rd

Hungary wield the eternal sword
And inspired by heavens word
Proclaim them to the deepest herd
The might of wrong is riven
In strength roll on thy mighty host
Let truth and mercy be thy boast
And we will gaurd thy rock bound coast
Thou favoured one of heaven

4th

Crush the foes of virtues laws,
They have won a fools applause
Trample on their vandel cause
As would honest men
And when suns shall leave the sky
When the truth shall preach a lie
When immortal souls shall die
They shall rise again

Moslems up-divide the spoil
And with hands of skill and toil
Make the Earth like Edens soil
Blessed as the smile of God
Where the Bohan Upas stands
Planted by a tyrants hands
Let the Olive branch expand
And blossoms crown the sod

6th

Nobles, nabobs, monarchs, all
Fate has spread your funeral pall
And the hour when ye shall fall
Peals of joy shall echo wide
Long enough have human rights
Bled amidst your paltry fights
While the powers that chains & blights
Ravages on every side

7th

Hear us all, the spheres are stirred
Hear and let each earnest word
Be as boding thunder heard
From the central court of Heaven
Man is sacred, man is worth
More than all the wealth of Earth
Learn his value by his birth
He whose soul from God was given

By the full love of human kind
By all the energies of mind
By every hope with freedom twined
Assume the truly good
Break the Northern Despots yoke
Tare in tatters Popery's cloak
And by truths performed & spoke
Stay oppressions widening flood

9th

They may try to sink the man
And crush him with their paltry plan
And plow reform beneath their ban
And if they do what matter
Like the storm beneath the cloud,
Heaves the soul beneath the shroud
Like that storm outbursting loud
Shall that soul the Despots scatter

10th

By the hearts by anguish riven
By the hands to horror given
By the souls dismantled heaven
Europe up and act the man
Onward to the battle then
Onward and stand forth like men
Victory never wavereth when
Noble spirits lead the van—

7

A communication from Annie Hanson in public meeting
H. Hanson medium 1852 Jan 9. 1853

Were man the choicest, the most intelligent and the most gregarious of the mammalia, were the theory of his affairs a mere expression of natural history, we might reasonably discuss in a philosophycal manner, the most appropriate mode he might most fitly ~~be~~ to put him in harness — But there is an element within him that carries him beyond this range, that lifts him from off this kingdom of nature and gives him kindred with the supernatural and divine. He is not a mere instrument to serve a universal end, but he has a sacred trust committed unto him, which on its own account he is empowerd and commissioned to discharge In every circumstance of life he is watched over by the eye of infinite pity and of love; he is braced by the strength of omnipotence for the faithful discharge of his duties and upheld by an omnipresent hand under the weight of every fierce temptation. — He therefore upon whom heaven has laid the burden of duties, no power can strip of rights; he with whom the highest deigns to hold communion, the temple which is not too mean for his abode, cannot be an object of slight or scorn unto man — By law or intrigue you may have the disposal of another mans labours but in the reality of things, the lord of a province is infinitely less noble than the conqueror of a temptation. You He may be a greek and the you a barbarian, but in the heraldry of the universe, the god of Aggemenon is less noble than the spirit of a

saint. Tho but an atom set against infinity, in virtue of your manhood you may aspire to Jehovah's throne; tho but a speck in the immensity of space, you hold a middle rank between heaven and earth. Standing as you do on the confines of the spirit world the chain of being is complete in you; matter's last gradation is lost in you, the next is spirit — Deity —

To For man's philosophy the lightenings of heaven have had to yield a willing submission and yet he is formed of dust — by nature he is a slave — by grace regeneration a god — a crowned monarch, a worm, yet an emanation from of the Almighty Divinity

Thus snatching you as the bearers of a holy trust from the curse of nature and the world; christianity was designed to show no respect to age class color or sex, it was intended to create a new order of inalienable rights, rights not to be affected by the heritage of birth or the franchise of a state, but to be inherent in the moral capabilities of the soul. And as fast as the powers and faculties of the understanding expand to a more enlarged apprehension of this truth the boundless and infinite benevolence of the gospel must become irresistable

The earliest legends as well as the most cherished traditions of all nations coincide with the record which christianity recognizes as of undoubted origin — viz — that the primitive condition of the human race was one of innocence happiness & purity & equally general and universal is the belief that this enviable state of felicity was soon superceded by a lamentable contrast

and whatever may have been the nature of the disobedience, which led to this mournful change, whatever may ~~have~~ been the received idea of ~~Christendom on the subject~~ the orthodox church in reference to this point, we know that it was the spirit of lust that interposed its fell power to wither and blight the fairest flowers of creation and from thence thro all succeeding time, there has been an unequal struggle maintained between the powers of immortal origin & corrupt(ent) nature for the ascendancy over the present and future destiny of the human race — History observation and experience all alike teach ~~convince~~ us that there is a continual combat going on in the mind of man under every conceivable circumstance of life a combat between his higher nature and ~~his~~ pervading inclinations, between the upward aspirings of his soul & the current of ~~those~~ passions which lead to degradation and ruin, and it is only by cultivating the graces and practising the lessons of the gospel of Christ, it is ~~only~~ in by availing ourselves of those benignant and spiritual influences ~~with which~~ you are that everywhere surround(you) that you will ever find yourselves capable of arriving at ~~the~~ a just true appreciation of your nature, the high purposes of your ~~being~~ existence and your final destination

The path of duty was plainly marked out by the first disciples of Jesus, and to those who are earnestly seeking for the truth the avenues ~~which~~ lead to paradise are still invitingly open & those who have fallen in with the requirements of the gospel, can feelingly and experimentally say that the fruit of righteousness is peace and the effect of righteousness is

quietness and assurance forever.

If my friends you are [at all] observant of the world and its manners, you will find that many of [these] its institutions which [God] were designed for the ~~happiness and well being~~ of the children of the world, and which so far as the world goes were beautifully adapted to the end they seek, have become [in many instances] so far perverted as to become positive evils, and have been followed by anything but the happiness they were intended to confer — We may take as an illustration the institution of marriage — And here I suppose you will be ready to accuse me of irreverence and bad faith. You will point me perhaps to your ~~seminaries~~ [institutions] of learning and to your schools of culture and ~~refinement~~ [improvement], and what will it all prove — Why, just this, that the young in many instances marry just what they have been taught. [If you] Take the mass of what are called respectable people in the world, [you will find that] they educate their daughters in innocence and vanity — they give them to a husband who destroys their innocence & cultivates their vanity; ~~thus~~ [hence] vanity alone remains, and thence commences its disasterous & dangerous career — It says unto woman that beauty merits homage and happiness consists in luxury that fortune confers everything. What vanity proclaims woman in her natural state desires, and man executes, & upon this ~~funeral pile~~ [moloch, the purity, repose, happiness and consciences of millions have been immolated] millions have sacrificed their consciences, their happiness and repose, and when the best years of their lives have passed away; when those who have best

succeeded have completed their ~~course~~ career, they ~~too~~ often bitterly complain of disappointment

Examine the first choice of a young woman; in all the qualities that please her there is barely one requisite to the good husband, indeed, she sees but little of him whom she pretends to love, except his personal appearance. She can dwell with delight on the elegance of his dress, and enlarge with rapture on the arrangement of his hair, as it clusters in ringlets over his brow, but ~~she cares not~~ it is of little interest to her whether the arch of that brow lose itself in a dome where the organ of veneration is placed to peal forth ceaseless anthems to the Creators praise

~~So by~~ In order not to ~~manifesting~~ an overweening ~~regard in reference to~~ desire for the spiritual welfare of their children ~~they~~ through fear they will not be well matched in a pecuniary point of view, their parents hide from their children all that is worthy of love; they leave the inherent sentiment of the beautiful to wander upon futilities, and intrinsic worth is rarely ~~or ever~~ thot of— Hence it often happens that after a brief union, that when that daughter comes to seek the charms that beguiled her, she is astonished to find in too many instances only an imbecile or an ape— And these are called marriages of inclination, or marriages of education would be more appropriate; and still it is a strange education, whose only labor is to cast upon another the burden of your own gross improvidence. With a view of matching the fortunes of their daughters the parents treat marriage as a mere commercial transaction, not as an

institution intended to confer happiness. The daughter is more occupied with the prospect of marraige than with the qualities requisite for the husband, makes a market of the thing when she purchases the privilege of regulating her own expenses, of going abroad unattended and seeing where she can find the other half of her soul, the sublime half which her adolesence pictures, and her vanity wishes to possess, and when this is found and obtained the first act in the drama is passed. Then comes the second, —after the passions of the husband are exhausted the illusions of the wife vanish— The woman of whom he made a goddess, the woman of whom he saw nothing but her beauty, the woman he has degraded, depraved and idolized— the woman whose passions he excited and whose caprices he adored— the woman who he has intoxicated with his voluptuousness, he desires her no longer he is satiated — But yesterday he adorned her with diamonds, today he complains of her negligence, but yesterday he flattered her as an oriental mistress, today he treats her as an inferior — In the midst of a dissipated world her wit becomes sharpened, but the soul evaporates; the once amiable and lovely daughter becomes the trifling woman, roaming about from visit to visit, an object of pity to some and an object of adulation to others— Music and gayety, pageantry and address, the gossip of the day and the small talk of society, these usurp the place of that and in the end

there is a frightful and deplorable void. Was intelligence only given unto you to teach you how to flirt, to dress & deceive?

What ingenuity it requires to enable you to blend with so much skill of the artist with the innocence of the infant, in order that another victim may be thrown upon society— It was not thus in ancient times, the young in recieving a husband expected to recieve a mentor, and this situation of mind was admirably adapted to prepare for assimulation & wisely not amourously they gave an impulse to eachothers thots, a direction to each others character—

I know that you were made to love and be loved in return for God is love and the fulfilling of the law is love, but you have been decieved by that which has not even a semblance of it True love is a sworn enemy to the corrupting passions that have usurped its name, and it is only by cultivating those enobling and elevating feelings of the soul which lead to the love of the Creator, that you will ever be able to paralize the delicious passions of the senses, and become true lovers of your specie

Your love like mortal things has its begining middle and ending; it blooms and blossoms out into sunshine & withers and has its end, nor can all the vows mutually given all the invocations of heaven, all the priestly ceremonies ever used avail to make your love eternal. As the joy of the honey moon passes away, what you worshiped as a Goddess proves to be only mortal. First comes doubts & complaints

and recriminations, then purposes of amendment unfulfilled which are not the more pleasant because expressed in silence in sad looks and tearful eyes — The twain dine together and live together, but the man is himself and the woman is herself in spite of all the laws of Hymen — And from whence arises this? it arises in many instances from the husbands revolt at discovering that the woman who is bound to administer to all his wishes, who is church sworn to love and obey him, is in truth his superior, and that he, not she ought to be the subordinate of the twain

And if it is painful for a woman to find herself mated for life to a boor and destined to succumb to a dullard it is still worse for the man, whenever the idea dawns upon his clouded intellect that his drudge and his slave, the woman who submits to his whims and caprices; the woman who does his bidding is in truth his lord, because she can think a thousand thots beyond the power of his muddled brains, and that on yonder head on the pillow opposite to him are a thousand thots and feelings of which he only dimly percieves as they look out furtively from her eyes. Yea she possesses treasures perchance that angels hands would fain gather, sweet images and bright fancies that would unfold themselves into celestial flowers, but the tyrant in possession crushes all these in their outbreak, and drives them back like slaves into the dungeons of darkness & rages because his subject is rebellious and his sworn companion

undutiful and refractory — Who can love what is base & unlovely Who can respect what is base and sensual? Not all the Popes, Cardinals, Parson, Rabbies & Muftees can bind to such a monstrous allegiance —

It is most commonly the case the shame the bitterness and contempt arising from the irregular intercourses of the sexes falls upon the woman alone. A man may have as many concubines as he pleases, he may discard or retain them at his pleasure and still keep up his appearances among his associates; there are but few who even suspect that a mans business relations are atall affected by his incontinency The Lawer continues his plea — the minister his preaching and the Physician his practice notwithstanding habits of incontinency are alleged against him, and the fastidious dame continues to receive him with as friendly a greeting as if they had never transgressed the original design of the Creator or violated his laws — With woman the decision of public sentiment is quite the reverse; let her sustain a relation to man other than the conjugal relation and the seal of condemnation is at once by universal consent passed upon the entire individual No qualities however ennobling, no circumstances however mitigating, no repentance however sincere, can remove the impression that the whole woman is lost in the commission of an act of precisely the same degree as those which are daily and hourly committed by the opposite sex without detriment to their interest — Christ reveals to us a perfect standard

of humanity and made himself the minister of that perfection He did not say do this because I will it but because it is right and because your not doing it is vicious and wrong— He wished to be loved not because he was different from this or that person, but for certain indwelling magnanimity which recognized all men as his brethren and which turned all external differences into tinsel He felt himself to be the subject of an infinite selfhood and accepted the love of others not as a tribute to his personal vanity but as sacred hymns and peans to the intimate divinity which you may all realize in your selves

How long will man continue to make the fair temple of the mind a ruin and a desolation? How long will they persist in poluting the spirit that came unsullied from the hand of the Creator?— How long will they continue to pass their spendthrift lives in daily & nightly endeavours to compass the ruin of some lovely & unsuspecting one, and make the holiest feelings of her soul subservient to their unholiest passions? All the wit of man can not devise an escape from a violated law of nature; there is not a single excess, not a single debauch, not a single abuse of an animal propensity but always has and always will have to be followed by more or less evil consequences — You may harden your hearts, you may stiffen your necks and be willing to abide the result of all your

sensuality, but in the far off and shadowy future there will be the beseeching forms of little children, lame, blind and deformed, crying out to you in speechless accents, O that you had forborn for our sakes, for the errors which turned aside from you are rankling in our souls

There is no possible progress for civilization untill woman is elevated to her true position. She is at once the key & guide, the cause and effect of the other half of the human race Man's greatest solace issues from woman's heart, his highest delight ought to be to see her brow coronated with a luster of mental light; and altho furtive and oppressive of all good as your false social systems have been, still man must acknowledge from the deepest depths of his existence that in woman's countenance he reads those expressive sensibilities which gives to heaven its beauty and its glory—

I say there is no possible progress in civilization as long as man and woman keep from blushing at those things which assimulates them to the brutes; untill the delicacy of the young forms the purity of their character, and the mark of their dignity, untill the grimace of prudery is exchanged for the simplicity of virtue and love is introduced into the temple of spiritual and the infinite — Man & woman are the component parts of a twofold same being whom God intends to indissolubly unite by love— by love which is not a mere earthly caprice, but a divine revelation

by love that shall divest your rights of materiality and your devotions of sordid interest — Christ told us his kingdom was not of this world. Every dictate of the sober and unbiassed judgement prompts the children of the regeneration to avoid the withering and degrading influence of sexual intercourse as unworthy their upward asspirings and nobler aims, as blunting the finer preceptions of the mind, and as turning us away from those duties which were intended to lead us thro' the beggarly elements of the world into another and better state of existence With a full appreciation of the beauties of chastity, admiring as we do the beauty and dignity of a blameless life and conversation and their comparative exemption from all those sources of bitterness and dissapointment with which the earth is filled and knowing as we do that our moral powers are able to avert the predominance of pernicious habits, we have laid our gifts upon Gods holy altar, and have learned the hardest of all lessons — thy will O God not ours be done —

Many of you my friends have opened the book of Knowledge, day after day you have poured over the teachings of Jesus and from the various repositories of the past you have brot forth the accumulated treasures they contain but this only adds an additional weight to your responsibility involved in a clearer perception of your duty and in a consciousness of a positive negglect of that duty —

In the secret recesses of your souls there is a monitor that tells you you are pilgrims and strangers here, that unto you is committed a high and holy mission, that for you is reserved a destiny surpassing your most exalted conceptions; that even in these low grounds of flesh and sense surrounded as you are by the corrupting influences of perverted and misapplied humanity, that unequal as may be the combat, and painful to the natural man as may be the struggle, you are nevertheless capable of winning the victorious crown and forgetting the mortification of the combat in the triumphs of the result But while in the midst of a dissapated world a host of evil passions will beset you, unexpected obstacles will oppose your strongest resolutions, your judgement is in danger of becoming fatally perverted, and your medium of vision of becoming deplorably obscured — and more you must remain strangers to those sweet emotions to social love and harmony which has restored happiness to our spirits and enabled us to illustrate and adore the capabilities and excellencies of our immortal being

My friends I do not condemn you, I can not convey the whole of being to you, much less explore my fellow but one thing I do know that irremediable or unmitigated evil does not dwell in any one of the human family — There are those who seem to have prostituted all the energies of their nature to the service of vice, who to appearance are lost to all sense of shame and dead to remorse, who so far as human penetration can

discern are wholly removed from the restraints of conscience and all dread of remorse, and yet we are verily guilty of presumption in authoritatively denouncing the ban of humanity upon their heads. The lesson most strikingly impressed upon the mind of his desciples, by him who was more exempt from human frailty than any of us, was that of uniform forbearance in judging of the characters of others and warning us against an uncharitable construction of their actions and motives

Those who appear the most polluted and full of pride may yet become homes where raidient spirits shall shine their glories while we ourselves may stand condemned

But my friends deep as may the spirit of slumber which is spread over the face of an alienated world, it will be found that with the law written upon their heart, and the law written upon the records of God's messengers, there are only few who have not at sometime or other have had suggestions which they have felt to be invested with all the rightful authority of rightful commands and which had they been faithfully followed, would have been the prelude to clearer manifestation

My friends, you live in an age when your responsibilities are great, the old world is going up in fire, and giving way to the dawn of a new spiritual world of life & beauty and we as the first fruits of the gospel of Christs second appearing have entered the arena of an expansive and simple christianity and mankind must follow; they must give themselves up, alone original and pure, to the Original & Pure who upon these

conditions alone will condescend to lead, to inhabit and speak thro you — The surges of everlasting nature are entering more and more into the mind of men and are making them more human in their regards and actions; they are begining to speak with thots and to act with energies that are immortal

They are ceasing to weave a disconnected life of threads and patches and are acknowledging in its place a Divine unity; things before unknown are being made visible ~~and~~ in the course of a worlds doings. and God offers this day unto each of you the choice between truth and error. Between these, like the pendulem of a clock you may oscillate forever, but you can not take both He in whom the love of error predominate will fall in with the first creed or the first philosophy that crosses his path, very likely the creed or the philosophy of his great-grand-mother He in whom the love of truth predominates, will keep himself loose and afloat from all moorings; he will recognize the law of universal progress; he will acknoledge the annihilation of self to be the begining of all human action the only experiment in which the riddles of manifold appearences explain themselves —

If you would be true desciples of Christ you must step over the line which seperates lawful from forbidden ground you must hold no companionship with the grossness of a spirit that can not rise above the ordinary estimate and calculations of the world — You must not blindly overlook the principle that gives to moral action its character

you must not sit in judgement over the doings of the Most High— When he said let there be light, there was light; when he said in the day you eat thereof you shall surely die, the punishment of the visible act, enables you to see its spiritual character, nor can all the levities of the ungodly keep us from viewing it as inconsistent with the order of that new creation in which he has so wonderfully manifested the attributes of his power and glory. Not untill all uncleaness is put away, not untill the carnal desires are crucified, not untill self is annihilated can you magnify the attributes of Deity, and experience the flow of his friendship in your souls full as the light of day and rich as the exuberence of heaven

Redemption my friends means salvation from ignorence as well as sin— This I know is not the old church creed, they do not look to the humanetary end Christ had in view, but to the promotion of their own personal interest— They forget that Christ fought the great battle of humanity against those who would make man a prey to their own aggrandizement, they forget that his whole life was one unbroken protest against institutions, priesthoods and governments, which would arrogate to themselves the right of controlling human opinion. The church has sold its Lord for filthy lucre it has accomodated its doctrines to every political party, Instead of being a nursing mother to the specie it has been

baneful as the mildew upon flowers, and has but forth nothing but a progeny of vapid ignorance and an offspring of self-conceit; it has but very limited ideas of truth; it talks about salvation from sin, but it knows not what sin is as it makes no provision for its final extinction— It does not preach that heaven which is attractive to the mind of man, and is a stranger to the powers of that spirit which enters the very seat of depravity— It denies the male and female distinctions in the Godhead and is totally unacquainted with the immortal marraige of the Divine Unity—

My friends you have much to learn and much to acquire; the heavens are moral and religeous, and the heavens are just and true—

There are more philosophical scriptures than those in general use; there is a spiritual world of life and beauty which throws all the glory of the natural world in the shade. All of you are connected with intelliggence in the spirit world to which at the time of your death your emancipated spirits will go— By cultivating goodness and simplicity you will gather around you true & elevated spirits and imbibe their influence, whereas by a contrary course you will be opperated on by delusive ones.

O I wish that I could approach you in language strong enough to express the deep feeling of my spirit. I would impress upon your minds characters which no error should

conceal. no error obliterate — I would find my way to the spark of immortality buried within you, and try to raise it up that you might behold the beauty of goodness, thirst for the waters of innocence and pant for the pleasures of a peaceful conscience — I would keep in motion the deep fountain of your souls untill you were purified, untill you were spiritually buried with Christ in his baptism. planted in the likeness of his death and raised into newness of life The truth, my friends is at work like fire in the earth and as it approches its meridian glory, the priests of mammon must fall, the sons of Ahab, those fiery zealots of bigotry shall be destroyed Jezebel the false church shall be thrown over the walls to the dogs, sectarianism will be stripped of its false & delusive covering. The Christ spirit in the woman shall veil the arch with its golden glories. her throne shall be established in millions of hearts, from her shall eminate the radience destined to embelish every scene, uniting mankind in an atmosphere of peace and love, and whose glory like that of a glassen sea shall reflect all the blended realities of an actual existence —

Discourse from William Penn Feby 27th 1853

"They have said peace peace when there was no peace"
You live in an age my friends when the plain unvarnished truth is a rare commodity, when sophistry is substituted for struggle, and the running away of the mind into endlessness is considered to be better than the old way of girding up the loins, compressing the lips, and grasping the sword of the spirit for a moral conflict. Men have forsaken centres for circumferences and have sought to obliterate the steps in that ladder which in good old Jacobs time led up to God.

With many the regions of investigation have become tenantless; religion has dwindled into ecclesiastical history with one set of minds, and into rationalism and unbelief with another; but in the mean time a lower floor receives the falling chiefs of both parties, who having left their brainless heads upstairs, begin to seek amusement in metaphysical pursuits, untill like all centrifugal cowards they commence sighing for other worlds to fall into; but nature has its bottom, and the Devil himself resists their further descent for the sake of his own character & reputation.

The extreme plainness and simplicity of the gospel is the very reason why mankind have overlooked its true character; in their eager pursuit after something more imposing and grand they have plunged themselves into the bottomless and shoreless ocean of metaphysical speculations and from this prolific mine they have brot forth theories so

inconceivably subtle and mysterious that no minds can comprehend them except the mystic voyagers themselves, and even they are incapable of composing language adequate to bring the profound that within the grasp of their wondering and gaping hearers. What my friends, I would ask you is the character, what the influence of the theology to which you have been accustomed? Does not most every sermon you hear aggravate your inward remoteness from God? Your teachers profess to deliver your conciences from the burden of sin, but do they give you a conciousness of righteousness in its stead? They profess to sweep the habitation of the soul of its evils but do they not leave it destitute of goods? I know they abound in the exercises of piety, but do they bless your spirit with that inward indefinable repose whose absence may not altogether destroy your happiness in external things, but whose presence is necessary to authenticate the reality of that happiness — Is no violence done by such a theology to your instincts of the Divine perfections, and in your adoration of the Divine fulness does it not dog you at every step with a sense of your own nothingness and emptiness? Religion as it has hitherto been taught has proved utterly destitute of every human and scientific worth; it has dealt with private interest exclusively. it has turned the Universal Father into a mere respecter

of persons, into a living subject of all the caprices of a petty earthly despot; it has made the perfections of Jehovah demonstrable only thro the imperfections of his creatures, and that relationship which you sustain unto him, and which according to our rational idea ought to be a source of happiness and joy, has become the bond of an endless and unspeakable misery. Your divines have divorced the Christ from that historical position which belongs unto him, they have tacitly attributed unto him a purely arbitrary supremacy; the sword of the spirit and the word of God have lost their power, and those high and holy precepts inculcated by Divine Wisdom for the elevation of human society have ceased to mean what their language clearly indicate — The noble, can retain their nobility; the high their exhaltation, the proud their pride, the rich their possessions, the oppressor their slaves, the unholy their character, and the whole posse of them can sit as comfortably and composed beneath the teachings of a degenerate priesthood as if they cherished no feelings towards their kind but those of universal love and respect.

And upon whom has the church confered its honors? Upon those who have been valiant for the truth? Nay! but those who have held the straitened reigns of government over oppressed millions; who by the sway of their iron power have deprived nations of the true genius & and dignity of their nature and have bound the heaven

born prerogatives of mind in the chains of ignorance and superstition

Shouts and plaudits, the devotional homage of Christendom have been confered on him whose mad ambition led him thro seas of blood and fields of carnage; who has filled his coffers with gold stolen from the altars of idolatry, and destroyed the fruits and industry of ages — Ought such men to be praised, and when they die be canonized and entombed amid the muffle of drums, the solemnity of marches, and the dirges of the church?

The low moaning death note may be hymned by their living worshipers, but it is no music to their emancipated souls the sword the signet and the harp may be laid in solemn mockery upon their breast, but it gives no responsive beat to this honor; the volley of rattling musketry may be poured into the cave where their carcases rot, the thundering cannon may shake the precincts of their tomb, and the infatuated shout of victory may rend the heavens above, but these to their disembodied spirits are swallowed up in the cries of those orphans, and the moans of those widows, who to satisfy the cravings of hellish ambition were cast upon the cold world without a friend or protector

The prevailing character of the church is at war with christianity; it is a complication of machinery to keep men in the traces of sectarianism, and were the preachers & people forming the masses of your city congregations to be visited by an adequate idea of the simple law of charity, their seats

would become intolerable unto them, and leaving their tapestried apartments, and their silken couches, they would rush in one grand phalanx to the courts and alleys where abide crime and destitution and suffering — The poor are becoming sensible that their unhappy condition in this world is no fault of their own, below their true position they are groping for light, they are demanding it in the name of common humanity; they are struggling amidst the mists of ignorance for better things, devising plans for social improvement, and endeavoring to carry out those plans in revolution and bloodshed and carry them out they will, for they have already shaken civilization to its very center. But has any kind hand been stretched out to them from the pulpit, have they seen any united effort of christianity on their behalf? any example of success in ameliorating their condition? Nay! their true interest has been scouted at by the mass of the clergy, the ministrations of the church have been confined to the rich not to the poor, it has frequented the mansion but forgotten the hovel, it has applauded the master but forgotten the slave

Compare these things my friends with the principles of him whom they pretend to claim as their Divine founder

Christ drew not his pictures from select society, he loved the people, he spoke to them in a language which the world as it runs may understand — He turned majestically from Kings & Princes, to their vassals & lowly bondsmen —

and counted the beatings of the lonely heart in obscure life that stirs every corner of the earth where human beings abide. With all his endowments he did not disdain to stoop his annointed head beneath the wooden lintels of the poor mans door and charm their meditative souls with the innocent brightness of a new born day. He descended from aerial flights into the humble dwelling, and showed the angels wing not only when sailing over the temples and towers of ~~majesty~~ poesy? but when poised over the lowly cottage of the valley — On the other hand the religion of the world has been revolutionary in its character; where ever it has been carried discord and division have been its attendents, the sword and the cannon are its symbol it has crimsoned natures eternal mountains & perrenial snows with gore; it has subjected the millions to the despotism of one, and instead of inspiring an honest and industrious people with the spirit of noble enthusiasm it has subjected them to all the horrors of the inquisition, and the pretended majesty of Kings

Again the mission of Christ was one of peace, he studied, ~~he studied~~ the history of the future as well as the present, and believed in the solidarity of the race, and was a stranger to all those terms which modern philosophy has engrafted upon the dialects of civilization — With him mankind did not exist in fragments, his doctrine was all men are all brethren, all bondsmen one for another, all

responsible for the federative humanity which puts the ban of exclusion upon none, His exposition of social laws involved no fiery anathema upon the poor man's soul, no hatred or provocation upon him, whom accident or circumstances had thrust into his way, or into the ranks of the guilty or depraved

A sweet and genial humanity radiates thro all his principles, he bowed only before the majesty of goodness, and acknowledged no sacrament of ordination, but the choice of God, no patent of nobility but that of honest industry with its seals of eternity — Once more, the world is made its religion to consist in a zeal for certain institutions, no matter how oppressive to the general welfare of the race thus practically sacrificing man to his circumstances, It holds up God in eternal conflict with his creatures, as perpetually aggrandized at the expense of the misery of his own offspring — It is ignorant of his true spiritual character and of his essential love to all mankind. It regards Christ as an absolute person, as one in whom extraordinary virtue was a matter of course, or as flowing from especial liberality of the Divinity towards him — We on the contrary are labouring for the egress of all those absurd dogmas and frivolous distinctions which have been the bane of society, and the enemies to progress, and for the consequent ingress of that Divine righteousness which consists in a spirit of universal love and brotherhood.

We tell you that all the splendors of creation attest that God

does not display his essential perfections thro' the defacement, but thro' the elevation of his creatures, we tell you he sustains no passive relation to the race, being a purely active living force; being a spirit of living light, of course you can come in to no other than an active relation unto him, and then only a you are made participators of the humanitary & universal love which characterized the life of Christ. We tell you that God is not in eternal conflict with his creatures, that over his teachings there broods no gloom of inexorable necessity condemning the many to helpless poverty and unrewarded toil. God harmonizes in all his laws, and is ever ready to make those laws subservient to the happiness of the race—

— God is love — This is the grand central truth which gives brightness to every other truth, without is nature would be desolate and heaven itself a blank — On every portion of creation's wide expanse, upon every page of her unwritten volume, you trace the useful and the beautiful the magnificent and the grand. If you go out into the broad ocean and listen to the teachings of that mighty instructress, if you plunge into the depths of the earth, if you follow the storm cloud in its course, as it scatters lightnings from its quiver or watch the more genial one as it descends in cooling showers upon the parched earth; if you bathe your spirits in the refreshing streams that flow from the great fountains above and around you, you will hear the universal anthem God is love. From the arched sky from every star that twinkles in the nocturnal

gloom, from the gentle tones of the southern wind, and from the hurricane that carries desolation in its way, you catch the response — God is Love —. The dark waving woodlands with their rich masses of luxuriant foliage, the quiet lake in whose bosom is mirrored the white and rose tinted clouds floating on the sea of azure; the evening sky with its regality of gold and purple, gradually losing itself in the dewy twilight, and the sporting zephyr as laden with Favonian sweets it sings its dirges over the falling leaves of Autumn, these all catch up the echo and repeat God is Love — Christ the infalible vicegerent of God the annointed of the Father exclaimed in tones of burning eloquence and with the authority of heaven God is love.

It is not my friends a cold, speculative, theological faith that will prepare you to meet the stern discipline of life and lead you to obtain a home among the redeemed, it is the confidence of love only that will carry you safely thro, and light up the valley even the dark valley of the shadow of death with a smile; that love which unites the disciples of Christ together in all their interests, which blends their joys and their smiles, their sorrows and their tears in one

Tho the belief in mans immortal destiny is the native & inborn faith of all people and countries who have not been sophisticated by the subtlety and delusion of modern civiliza philosophy and religeon, tho it is the birth right of all good simple and undepraved natures, who have not been misdirected by false creeds and false conciences, altho it is the common

sense theory of all good old men whose hearts have not been chilled, and whose heads have not been twisted by bigotry and priestcraft, altho your affections, your intuitions, and your instincts teach it unto you, yet your divines have never been able to reduce it to a simple and unperverted law of nature. Why, just look at all your systems of religion! what a monstrous stretch of credulity it requires to subscribe to any of them? they outrage science & belie philosophy at every step! — How God disparaged! And yet they are inculcated by education, they are proclaimed by authority, they are supported by learning they are disseminated by precept, they are ennobled by fashion, they are enforced by example, and they are become so woven, as it were into the very texture of your being, that you can not see their absurdity, but imagine them the standard of all truth and philosophy while the Mahomedan the Hindoo, the Bramin and even the untutored Indian who you are trying to convert to your faith, can see thro the flimsy tissue and in the dignity of his manhood chooses to cling to his own great spirit — No creed, no formula can ever state christianity fully, either as a theory or a religion, because it is Divine and consequently infinite — All human science all art, all thot, all philosophy can never exhaust the meaning of one single revealed word or creative work of God —

If you would find your way to the temple of all truth you must concientiously unfold your faculties under the

guidence of the Holy Spirit, for not one of all these many faculties can be neglected with impunity; each one of them is a temple to unlock some golden palace in Eternity, each one of them conducts to the divinest spheres of blessedness and beauty — Truth is to be found in observation & insight in the rapid intuition and the slow induction, in society & in solitude, in silence and in speech, in the prayer of faith and in the mathematical process — The orb like mind must be full and transparent at every point of its circle or its whole being can never be full of light; light flowing from every tint of beauty and from every well spring of virtue; light flowing from the outward nature and the inward life.

You are born my friends with high and glorious aspirations, you are endowed with faculties destined to carry you beyond the bounds of time and sense, you are privileged to live in an age when soul is asking to unite itself with soul when heart is longing to beat in sympathy with heart; deep fountains of affection are welling up within and around you; disembodied minds are asking to link themselves with minds embodied, with chains that reach thro the vast expanse of human brotherhoods — And shall an unprincipled dogmatism dissolve these ties? Nay! they are the very essence of your immortal being and shall one day smile upon the thots, and feelings and loves of those you leave behind you upon earth — Let progress

be your watchword, look forward with confidence to the coming millenium, seek for the light of Divine truth. labor for a birth triumphant for you must be born again; marvel not but toil on untill your spirits can commune with your spirits heaven, untill from the radient home of the redeemed the voice of welcome descends into your hearts and the sweet fervor of holy accent burns upon your tongues—

Retire from the gaze of the prejudiced age and drink from the pure fountain of Angelic communion. Be firm, exercise the faculties with which you are endowed, and prove not only unto God but unto your fellow men that you know your duty and are determined to do it— In the radient home of disembodied brotherhood no idle submission is demanded, none recognized, but upon the dignity and purity of each spirit the happiness of the whole depends— Look calmly and reasonably upon the objects of your worship; has the power that taught you to feel devotion taught you truly of God? Does affection never awaken within you the germ of a better feeling, a feeling which reproves you for seeking Jehovah in the gorgeous temples of idolatry, and the chilly sanctuary of a sect? You know no freedom, you feel no dignity; break thro these entanglements, taste of the fruits prepared for developed mortals, and ever remember that, tho' faith may exist as an evanescent conviction of the affections yet the judgement admits, of no faith, of no belief that does not flow from the basis of absolute and unequivocal knowledge

and remember too that no revelation presents a complete & perfect system of truth, since man himself has never been prepared to receive it, and all that has hitherto been given to the world are only parts and very small parts of the great & mighty whole which reside in the Divine mind

As regards the righteousness of your sect my friends you may be blameless; you may have observed every precept of mystical and ordinary piety, your bosoms may harbour no secret guilt, and your actions may betray no overt iniquity, you may abound day and night in prayer, and your lips may be familiar with the formulas of christian praise and jubilee; but let me tell you Divine glory gathers its brightest luster from the cross, and untill you are prepared to partake of this cross and follow Christ you exhibit the spirit of an abject slave, and are but slowly progressing towards ~~toward~~ that ennobling state of society, which shall ultimately become the divinest sphere of liberty and love

Here consists the grand line of demarcation between a nominal and practical christianity; give up all & follow me — How humilliating the requisition! How self abasing the conditions; how comprehensive in their design, how simple in their application, and yet in consequence of their very simplicity how few will embrace them? — Were Christ among you again in the disguise of a common carpenter were he to quell the raging elements in your midst, and command him to come forth in the habiliments of death upon

whose body decomposing laws had begun to prey, how few even in this day would recieve his testimony if followed by the announcement "Give up all & follow me" This is a lesson most people are apt to prattle a great deal about, but are too little inclined to improve; & yet it is the loadestone to which you must all one day be brot, it is the ordeal thro' which every soul must pass. You may muse upon an ideal life of love and virtue you may aspire unto it as a happiness. but the very first thing, the very first lesson which a New Creation teaches you, is that crosses and trials are placed between you and heaven as steps to guide you there—

At the conclusion of the foregoing to the spectators the Medium faced about and addressed the following to the Believers from his Sister Annie

My brethren and sisters I am not come here to day to spread a gloomy picture before your eyes, the light and beauty which are shed around my spirit home have given me a more delightful theme to dwell upon, and given not only unto me but unto you also and unto Angels— I do not ask you to recieve me, but I do ask you to recieve with heart-felt joy the truths that I unfold to you; recieve them as the dove bearing the olive branch of peace to your own beloved Zion as the green and lovely symbols of hope to your world weary souls

You have deserted the churches of the world— those tabernacles of terror that have given forth dry and unsatisfactory laws as the mandate of a great and glorious being, whose only law is love, whose only mandate is peace— And now your great work is to erect a tabernacle within yourselves whose incense shall rise to the pure throne of light, and return with an odour more sweet than the breath of flowers in the first dawn of their beauty— Think not that the gems of immortal flowers have ceased to shed their loveliness upon the earth, think not that spirit sympathies have ceased to act upon you, your interests are ours, our love is interwoven with the chain that binds you to heaven— The great in wisdom the mighty in truth who have long since passed away from the earth, but who are purified by truth & love who have progressed in goodness and become expanded by knowledge, are descending to fulfill their mission amongst you, and are seeking to bind you with the cords of the gospel to their high and holy purposes

You who have had any degree of travel in the way & work of God, must be daily convinced of the necessity of watching with unceasing vigilence, not only your outward actions but your inward thots and motives, not only your motives but your faults— not only your faults but your predjudices— not only your predjudices but your propensities

It is easy to see what your actions are, but your motives and intentions require a close vigilence, and if you fear

you shall err while scrutinizing into the deep recesses of your souls: if you fear that you shall wander in uncertainty thro your weaknesses you have a guiding clue in your lead and if you ask God thro them to teach you in the way you know not, you will be conducted thro' the intricacies of the labyrinth into all truth By closely uniting yourselves to your Lead you unite yourselves to your brethren & sisters, alienated from your lead you are seperated from a close intimacy with your God — A close union with your Lead brightens your graces, deepens your repentance strengthens your hopes, expands your love, and the humble confession of an error not only burnishes your armour, but like Moses you come down from the Mount with a brighter face — I wish you clearly to understand my faith upon this point, when I go to my lead I go to my God. God speaks to me thro them, their voice is the voice of God communing to my own soul, nor will I forfeit the right of that communion — no interference can be permitted here — It is an affair between God and my own soul, and your spirits can no more do without the nourishment derived from this altar, than your bodies can do without the breath that sustains them, & a craving after it must come up with the remembrance of every sin. — There is no need of a new sacrifice, but there is need of a constant offering, there is need of looking up for every fresh wound you recieve from the enemy

And if ever the temples of your souls are to be raised above the temptations and cares of life into a region of happiness & peace, you must obtain the strength of this altar, and if this communion with God has not a tendency to calm the passions of your soul, to allay the feverish anxieties, and to infuse into you sensations of joy and tranquility, I know not where to point you in quest of happiness—

But you know that when there you breathe the atmosphere of heaven, and are more impressible beings than at any other time

A life of departure, a deviation from the orders of the gospel is not the element of Mothers children, nor can they enjoy themselves in it. There is no stationary ground you can possibly occupy, you are either advancing in the divine life which is your indispensible right & privilege or you are falling back and departing from God. You may rest assured that you can not serve God with a divided heart— It is no use being like a balloon ever ready to ascend but fastened to the Earth by a cord, no use in being like a tree that has been undermined by a current and is seesawing this way and that because the roots are not cut loose. You can not parley upon the enemy's ground, your victory is in flight, you must break loose from worldly influences you must give up all that interferes with your duty to God— You can not be earthly and heavenly minded at one and the same time, you

can not serve two masters. I feel there are those amongst you who have been undermined by the power of Divine truth who have been thrown prostrate as it were in humilliation and who have felt a current of heavenly influences bearing strongly upon them, but they will not cut the roots— The time for trying your souls has come, and if there was a period when the well directed efforts and energetic resolves of young believers especially, were truly wanted it is now, now is the time you are called upon to pursue your onward course with increasing zeal and alacrity—

O. I entreat you gather up the mantle of the first born, imitate their example of sacrifice, gird on the whole armour of God; use every effort to depopulate the Kingdom of darkness within yourselves, and to extend the borders of your own beloved Zion— When you lift up your languid eyes and see a brother or a sister walking in a more justified path than your own, with wreaths of victory around their brows, and rejoicing in the happy promise of a golden future, do not lift up the withering and scorching hand of jealousy, and seek to tear the priceless diadem from the honored brow that has justly merited it; do not breathe upon them the horrible tempest of misantrophy, and thus rear up an impregnable barrier in the way of your own travel, but rather have the honesty and the humillity to acknowledge the real difference and fight and struggle and wrestle and resolve and reresolve to

to prove yourself worthy of wearing ~~of wearing~~ the same laurels and having the like radiant gems set in the coronet of your glory

It is a beautiful law of God that the sentiments which are uppermost in the soul, should ever be the first to seek for utterance, and it is in accordance with this law that I have thus far addressed you; and now I would speak to you in the language of earnest and sincere congratulation — I congratulate you upon the arrival of this long wished for day which has dawned so brightly ~~and~~ auspiciously upon you I congratulate you upon the happy results attendant upon your gospel labours & toils; I congratulate you upon the manifestation of that kindred spirit which at this moment reciprocally overflows our souls with a gratitude too full to be expressed, with a love too eloquent for language; in a word in the presence of God, and in the consecrated walls of this building, I am happified beyond d measure to meet with you as a sister, to join you in the common chorus of jubilation and in the united tribute of prayer and praise, You are associated together in a good work, may it be wholly accomplished; you are engaged in a labour of love, may it be amply achieved by each one of you, the vows of God are upon you and I trust they will be religiously fulfilled

When I look on the consecrated grounds of Zion; when I behold the beautiful evidences of your faith and zeal when I contemplate the sacrifices which have brot things to this crowning point, I can not but recur to those memorable

names who but yesterday as it were worshiped in a more rude but not less consecrated temple than this

But my Brethren & Sisters above all these I congratulate you upon the perpetual presence of the Christ spirit in your midst, that altar of sacrifice where your souls can be nourished from day to day, and where by a faithful confession of your lacks and short comings, you are made participators in the fruits of true redemption and united to God— And I tell you at this altar the first believers were armed with that wonderful and indomitable courage, which not only forbid them to quail before the face of their persecutors, but filled them with joy and transport in the presence of their enemies, And I tell you at this altar there has been breathed into the young and timorous heart of many a helpless virgin ~~that~~ womanly? that manly and heroic fortitude which not only enabled her to resist the powers of the adversary, but filled her with an invincible energy which no threats could intimidate, no opposition subdue, And I tell you that the altars of the spirit world are daily crowded with those who are laying down their sins and becoming one in our midst. Poor and forsaken and downcast as you may sometimes seem know you not that you are in the house of your parents, in a house where there is a remedy for all your disorders, a solace for all your woes— If you would be happy this altar must be your frequent resort; you must come to it not only as the members of one common faith

but as members of one common family, as the children of one common parentage — It matters not what may be your estate and condition, it matters not from how many various points, or from what distant climates of the globe you may come, it matters not what customs you hold, or what dialect you speak, for by the sacrifices made at this altar you are blended together in one, in the beautiful harmony of the gospel of Christ — Neglect not to gather around this altar — an altar not canopied with domes of porphyry & silver not surrounded with mystic lights, and smoking incense and acolytes arrayed in gorgeous vestments —

Nay she who came down from heaven as a Bride prepared for her husband, requires none of these, but only the outbreathings of a sincere and repentant spirit — Take away this altar and you tear the very heart from the body, take away this altar and the pulse of spiritual life is stopped; take away this altar and tho' Zion might resound with the most fervid human eloquence, her temples would be desolate and her worship without a meaning —

O my brethren & sisters, I am happy beyond measure to meet with you this day in a house dedicated to the true and living God, It was to his glory this temple was reared, It is to him you are this day making your offerings and he will, he has already accepted them, and you are this moment rejoicing in the evidences of that acceptation. And tho' these tokens of Gods presence are not given as of old in

the fire from heaven, in his coming down in a cloud with his glory veiled, and his divinity shrouded, still he is in your midst to save and to bless you, he is here as a father and a friend to listen to your sighs and to receive you to his loving embrace — The realization of this truth of the abiding presence of Christ at the altar of sacrifice, is the well spring of every true believers joy, the source and center of all their aspirations, their hopes & their loves

And how beautifully does it all economize with the dispensation of the gospel — By the offerings made at this altar you are established in your lost rights, your forfeited privileges are restored to you, you are raised to the dignity of Gods children, and are fitted for that high and glorious destiny for which you were created

Thanks be to God that we have such an altar; cling to it with fidelity, imitate the faith and zeal of your first Parents; give forth the undoubted evidence in your lives that their love is still burning in your souls, and that you are ready to meet even death itself in attestation of the principles they taught you

In this Zion where God has placed you, where he has blessed the labours of your hands, and the sweat of your brows, do your duty, and let the same generosity & meekness and simplicity characterize your history that ennobled theirs

Rally around this altar, encircle it not only with your material bodies but with souls full of faith and zeal; love it;

come to it in your misery, in your want, and in your sin, come to it that you may be purified, come to it that you may be made whole, and in a future day be fitted to worship in that other temple, where you shall look beyond the flaming bounds of stars, where you shall join in chorus with angel and archangel with Cherabim & Seraphim, and mingle your voices with those reverberating anthems, whose music forever girdle the throne and fountain of everlasting light

Discourse by Annie Hanson in public meeting
May 22. 1853 H. Hanson Medium

The golden color of the evening cloud that fades with the setting sun is but a just image of the transition of an intellectual glory that fails to recognize in practice the Divine truths of the gospel

When the hum of business has ceased in the populous city, when fainter and still more faint becomes the laugh of the prostitute and the song of revelry; when the heavy tread of the straggling debauchee upon the stone pavement has a solitary and unearthly sound; when every wail of distress is hushed to the outward ear and silence broods over the palace and the hovel, have you never in that lonely moment as the clock from the old church steeple has tolled the hour of midnight been startled by the painfully pleasing cry of the guardian watchman, as with strong and sonorous voice

he has exclaimed. all is well, all's well! O what a prostration of words. Is it well with the young mother as she leans over the fevered couch. and wipes the death dews from the marble brow of her only child? Is it well with her as she sits in the corner of the room like a moon light shadow, listening to the fiendish growl of him who instead of being ready to protect her from want & insult gazes upon her with all the savage wildness of long continued dissipation? Is it well with thousands who are wailing like doves, whose nests have been reft of all that renders life dear unto them. and who have seen the last link of their hearts blood broken in sunder by the relentless hand of guilt? Is it well with those whose youth was surrounded by the rosy atmosphere of Hope, but who are dependent upon the scanty pittance of parochial charity and to whom life is only a thing of silent memory, of sadness and of tears? — Is it well with the statesman who has proved himself a Judas to the cause of liberty, who has used his power only to tempt, to seduce and to influence — who has sold his principles for a name and bartered his birthright for a paltry mess of pottage? — Is it well with the oppressor of the widow and the orphan. the flower of whose hope he has withered by his relentless cruelty, and the blossom of whose joy expired beneath the brutal and menacing expressions of his savage features? Is it well with those upon whose brow, worth once shone

like an aureola, but from which the diadem of manhood has now departed? Is it well with the gambler in the gorgeous salon, who seizes the dice box with a gaunt and jeweled hand, and dashes away the earnings of a life time at a stroke? Is it well with those over whose thots the passions hold revel, who drown their better feelings in the wine cup and whose every sentence is accompanied by the clanking of an oath?

And now my young friends, for to you I would especially address myself, is it well with you? Are you not still deluded by the delusions of the world; illusions which thronged the pathway of your infancy and which from that day to this have not ceased to beset you? – Visions of happy days, of joyful associations, of substantial comfort, are ever gliding on before you, but you never overtake them? Day by day and night by night they present themselves before you, and you are as often willing to be tantalized by them. Young tho' as you are, some of you have felt the weight of sin and the ravages of remorse; your hearts have known sorrow untill they would fain break; your eyes have been dimmed by weeping; you have mourned over the sordid selfishness of the human family; over the world's atheism and despotism; over that foul spirit of ambition which arrays man against man and brother against brother with intent and purpose as fell and murderous as if the human bosom knew no emotions of benevolence, no motives but those which

are sinister and malign — And there are many among you who are disposed to a folly which reason cannot but satirize, you have no relish for the true joys of manhood, you have greedy applause for him who lavishes a trifle to relieve tangible distress, while you tread with haughty contempt upon the toil worn being, the tide of whose heart affections gush forth in tears, and who has to earn his next meal by the continued labour of his jaded hands — You know the morality of books by heart, whatever can be socially taught, and traditionally repeated from father to son you can appreciate; Expose to you one plain surface, and whatever extends beyond the palpable limits of your own predjudiced notions is considered as moonshine by most of you — Your views of man are confined to what is of the earth earthy, ideas of the majesty of life are limited to the church or perhaps to the play house, what you call virtue may be pleasing to a sophisticated taste but revolting to a healthy one; your good men are morbidly good; good as it were by natural infirmity, but insupportably tedious to the truly spiritualized soul —

My young friends I am not altogether a stranger to the follies and temptations of the world, and I know it requires no little feat of moral courage to keep ones proper humanity undimmed by a long acquaintance with it, and to come forth from its vulgar pretentions with a heart unchilled to every form of moral worth —

It is difficult to stand within the arena where lilliputian moralists contend, without getting your manly heads occasionally ducked in those insanities which claim to be the regulators of popular intelligence — It is difficult to escape the feigned humor that comforts and keeps the infirmity it sports with, and avoid being a partaker in those follies, which are not the mere debris and truck of those old manners, which may reasonably claim a lingering decency even in decay but the bran new inventions of a prosperous and bewitching vulgarity — It is difficult for the truth loving, truth seeking progressive mind to emerge out of the instincts of its nature, to emerge out of its animality and break asunder the dome of superstitions cave where bloated error and huge predjudice sit like croaking night birds, away from the broad and searching light of pure truth — But untill you have done this it can not be said of you, "all's well". Untill you have become acquainted with that grand morality which no man can teach his neighbors; untill you show yourselves something more than the mere creatures of a brooding selfishness and mechanical ingenuity; untill you can present some assurance of your manhood, and prove yourselves lord of the creative element, a symbol of Divine integrity, a portion of the all protective, a ray from the Eternal and all loving, life bestowing, hope imparting Being; you have made but little progress in spiritual things. So long as you are unable to penetrate thro'

that misty veil which conceals the sanctuary of the soul; so long as you are unable to dispel those irritable fancies which rests like a death pall over the great heart of humanity so long as the genius of light which glitters on the brow of heaven fail to attract your admiration and the purity which is scattered over the face of the globe fails to excite your grattitude it can not be said that "all's well"

Untill you are born into the boundless world of mind into a conciousness of your own immortal being, and in the deep silence of your own spirit temple, feel the hallowed presence of your own divinity you are but babes in spiritual things — So long as you confine yourselves to the things of time and sense, instead of soaring away into the blue expanse of that heaven where your spirits might cull the brightest flowers of love, and bathe in the radiance of undying that; so long as the theory of religion satisfies your awakened aspirations, while the gems of beauty which lie hidden beneath its surfice are uncoveted and unsought for, you manifest but a very low spiritual developement

So long as your ideas of the universe are confined within the narrow limits of sense, and the outpouring life & glory of truth is not felt to be a bright and substantial reality; so long as you fail to realize that there are oracles more divine and truthful than those of past ages; that there is a higher philosophy to be revealed than that which

the schools of modern times have taught, and a broader & more substantial system of truth to be established, than that which rests on the base of antiquated authority; so long as you fail to realize the presence of a real and attractive power from which the life tides of creation flow, and by whose affinity the soul is to be drawn upward toward the vortex of uncreated light, you are but babes in spiritual knowledge, and have yet got the first letter to learn in the alphabet of spiritual science

While in the world my friends I partook deeply of its cup of melancholy, and my youthful confidence was rudely jostled by its checkered and changing events; but I believe I may say it was the melancholy of a manly soul patiently waiting the denoument of the play in order to see complete justice done to all the characters — We have no quarrel with man as he stands clothed upon with natural want and impotence but only as he becomes clothed upon by fictitious social pretentions and appliances — It is not the rude aboriginal man that provokes our satire, but the man of furbelows and falsehoods — the smooth conventional man of selfishness and intrigue, who defeats the promise of the rude aboriginal, by turning aside to the mere services of mere apery and insincerity — O my young friends we want you to see your own worthiness, to feel that life may unfold other phases besides that of selfish omnipotence

In the advancing career of the present day you are called upon to make many new concessions, and to open your eyes to many strange innovations, you are called upon to give the final testimony to your manhood by accepting those high and holy principles which are best calculated to redeem the human race; and to acknowledging that you have hitherto been deceived by the selfishness of human wisdom, and lost in the wilderness of superstition ✓and error —

The tone and spirit of the future is in a great measure to be determined by you, and if you sit down in the apathy of unconcern your influence will become stagnant and dead. You are lavishingly using those means, by which other countries have gone to decay; you see jealousy and ambition, rancour and pride firing man against man, and brother against brother; you see the laws and institutions of justice trampled upon, you see your populous cities festering with a ruffianism, intemperance, and debauchery which rivals the degradation of Paris — Juvenile depravity is frightfully on the increase; the country is flooded with the ceaseless reports of theft and dishonesty; murders and suicides are things of daily occurrence, and your hospitals and asylums show the ravages of disease consequent upon intemperance and debauchery

My young friends you ought to be the verry first to

enlist under the banners of true redemption, and to bring up with shoutings the top stones of that temple in which all are destined one day to worship; standing side by side as you do with the present selfish, material superstitious forms of worship prevalent in the world, you ought to be the first to gather around the altars of the true Zion, & to embrace those truths made glorious by progress, and to infuse that leaven among society which shall leaven the whole lump — You ought to be the first to enter the wardrobe of the gospel, and clothe yourself with the ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit you ought to be the first to catch the glorious anthems of the seraphic choir, whose breath is ever voiceful with songs of melody, and who amid the light which comes down to earth, are seeking to guide you on your darkened way to the goal of eternal happiness — You ought to be the first to enter the fields of spiritual science and make yourself acquainted with the flowers, that there blossom and expand as living emblems of purity & innocence; those fields where the energies and processes of the whole universe are concentrated and employed in producing beautiful forms, whose developements and perfections are destined to extend thro all the avenues of created intelligence You ought to be the first to approach the confines of the visible creation and gaze over the immeasurable expansion of that being, whose glory is lost in your most perfect conceptions, and where is mirrored the unfading light which

flows from the throne of the Eternal

It is well my young friends, as you sail over lifes tempestuous sea, to occasionally throw out your lead & line in order to discover your sounding —

There is too much stress in these degenerate days laid upon faith, and too little upon works, and there have been a great diversity of religions discovered since the time that Sinai's mount was the temple of God and a fishermans hut the Church which Christ occupied — During the lapse of ages, temples have been erected, colleges endowed and universities established the scriptures it has been that were able to make you wise, unto salvation and the Lamb of God to perfect you in holiness — The relic of some departed saint, a splinter of wood from the holy cross or a few filings from the chain of St Peter have satisfied an anxious multitude for ages, but now creeds darkened by metaphysical doctrines are becoming unpopular; these representatives of Antichrist are dissolving beneath the light of advancing day, and dim and shadowy are becoming the forms which once seemed glowing with intellectual strength and grandeur, and the temples of ignorance and superstition are falling amid the ruins of time —

But the fall and dissolution of the old is succeeded by the introduction of the new, the horizon is gilded by a more glorious light than mortals ever knew and a

volume of pure and beautiful revelations are being presented to the world —

Purified from the corruptions of the earth thro sufferings, and instructed in the wisdom of heaven by celestial teachers. a people have arisen, the foundation of their temple is already laid, the beautiful structure is rising in silent grandeur, the star of righteousness again floods it with its beams, and many are about to welcome its dawnings — This is the great work of the present and the succeeding century —

Hark ye! hear the great Evangel
Over land and over sea —
Truth, the spirits fairest angel
Now proclaims true liberty
Heed no chidings — sound the tidings
That shall make the nations free —

Not for mammons hoarded treasure
Sell the truths that Jesus taught
Not for vain and sensuous pleasure
Shame the gospel that he brot
Be Devotion, true devotion
With your life & mission fraught

Haste, unfold the true Paternal
Character of God above

With his counterpart maternal
Binding all in bonds of love
Christ our Father. Christ our Mother
And the soul a nestling Dove

See afar the light is streaming;
Surplice black and cassack grey
Never more shall hide its beaming
Never more obscure the day
God has spoken—chains are broken
And the old night rolls away

See the true Millennium dawning
O'er the darkness of the mind
Truth the herald of the morning
Leaves the shadows far behind
Light is waking, light is breaking
Giving light on all mankind

Dare to teach the deathless spirit
It may safely use its power
Claim its heirship & inherit
Its own priceless human dower
Ne'er be reason chained for treason
From this fate unfolding hour

Harke ye hear the tidings glorious
Over land and over sea
Truth and right shall reign victorious
And the long enthralled be free
Harke the nations, sound salvations
Coming day of Jubilee —

My young friends you may walk with a stately step and haughty mien thro the brightest scenes of life; you may seek for pleasure where mirth like a gay plumaged bird holds revel over each festive scene, you may live in the very midst of pomp and splendor, where naught greets the ear save the sound of melody, and the eye sees nothing but lifes most beautiful pictures, your radiant beauty and sparkling wit may win you many admirers among your own sex, and your elegant dress & refined manners many worshipers among the opposite sex; your home may be one of splendor and magnificence; it may be furnished in a stile of oriental beauty, and may boast all the luxuries wealth and fancy can devise — But there will come a midnight of the soul, an hour when each stirring leaf will cause your pulse to vibrate, and when your spirit will beat a responsive echo to each slight sound that awakens the deep trust of nature; there will come an hour when memory with its white wand and dream like spell, will steal over you, recalling from the shadowy past, forms which have faded from

earth, and times which have long since ceased their melody. There will come an hour when you will have to turn into the depths of your crushed & bleeding hearts, when truth will stamp its signet upon your brow, when the tears which have long slumbered in their inward fountain shall flow in streams of regret, when the high hopes you have earnestly cherished, and bright visions you have treasured with trusting confidence will pass away and the world become robed in a mantle of cold indifference

What boots it tho it is your lot
In affluence to roll _
Did riches ever buy the gems
That sparkle in the soul?
Not all the wealth within the world
Not all your eyes can scan
Can purchase one pure thot that guides
The poor but holy man
Gold will but clog your footsteps here
Twill chain you to the sod
And break the holy link that binds
The soul unto its God

Nay, more my young friends, you may have regaled your minds with the beauties of literature, you may have basked in the sunshine of earthly fame, your words may be quoted as an oracle, and your manners may be made the mirror of imitation

your eyes may look down upon a crowd of salettites ready to do you homage, but let me tell you unless the white winged bird of peace, finds and unsullied concience wherein to rest you can not be happy. I have revelled much amid the beauties of literature myself, I have drank deep of the streams of poesy, and I trust I shall not be suspected of harbouring any predjudice against it, but I do know that many things which employ a large portion of your younger years are studied more as polite amusements than as things which are subservient unto the glory of God and will I am afraid stand as articles of abatement before Gods true witnesses, and when made manifest will be deemed as works which should be burnt, being only hay and straw & stubble when compared with the weightier matters of the law. I could not be so bigoted as to desire you to shut out from those recreations which a man of sense finds in the masterly writings of the historian and poet, and from which the wise and good may gather much that is good and interesting, but it is one thing to taste these lucious and pregnant fruits & another to feed upon them; it is one thing to make the most noble and substantial portion of them our refreshment and another to make their circumstantial curiosities the chief business of our study and the favourite theme of our attentive inquirey —

That true greatness and devotion of mind which the study and practice of the gospel is so admirably calculated to produce

teaches you the sublimest of all sciences, and if for the sake of other studies you negglect this, the time will come when you will most assuredly acknowledge with sorrow and regret that you have dearly purchased the most refined treasures which the world has to bestow. You must judge for yourselves, but permit me to say that I envy not the position of him who when asked by God how he has employed his time should have to say "Lord I have restored many corrupted passages in the ancient classics and have illustrated many more which were obscure, I have cleared up many intricacies in chronology, have elucidated many mysteries in philosophy and solved many abstruse problems in Algebra"

True goodness my friends consists in a conscientious observance of the minor duties of life. There was more piety in the devotion of Nathaniel when he bowed beneath the figtree, than in all the ostentatious prayers of all the phylacteried pharisees at the corner of the streets — The poor widow who cast her hard earned mite into the treasurey of the Lord, gave a greater evidence of goodness, than the wealthy Jew whose golden coins rattled their own praises as they fell into the chest — There was no piety in Peters burst of zeal when he cut off the ear of the High Priests' servant — but there was in Mary's quiet approach when with her raining tears she washed & with her streaming hair wiped the feet of her dear Redeemer — You are dutiful if you love your brethren

and sisters, but you are more dutiful if you watch for occasion to prove that love

Truth is a great deal talked about in these days of elevation and progress, but its teachings are too seldom realized — The schools can not create it, gold can not purchase it, it is not cradled in universities; it has lived in garrets and by its nod has awed worlds. It has been clothed in rags, and the mighty have not realized it; the faggot has been kindled around it, but its breath is crumbling the throne and banishing the king from whom cruel edicts flowed — It has languished in prison and in that dim solitude has created a work whose lessons have never been exceeded in moral sublimity — It claims no paternity but God; its patent right is in Heaven where no greedy inventor can lay the touch of his unhallowed hands upon it, and no parchment rolling back even to the days of Adam can lay any hereditary claim to its gifts — O my young friends it is one thing to enjoy the religion of Christ in the soul and another to possess a theoretical acquaintance with it however extended

It is one thing to converse about it, however pleasant that conversation may be, and another to realize its Divine sweetness, to experience its holy and healing influences to be made the subject of its cleansing and transforming power — Thank God I have enjoyed a foretaste of it, and as experienced by the faithful disciples of the cross, how lovely does the Christ spirit appear, whether it shines forth from

the character of Jesus of Nazareth or Ann Lee! In the wide range of its doctrines, in the simplicity, adaptation and fulness of its promises, in the amplitude & tenderness of its invitations, in the holiness and sweetness of its precepts, what bliss is enshrined — I go to a rich feast — I feed on its plenty with ever increasing delight, with ever augmenting relish — I love its devout observances, I joy in its hallowed and sublime institutions, I venerate its increasing and illuminating revelations; under the shadow of its wings I can meet every difficulty however formidable, I can brave every assailant however violent, I can encounter every tempest however raging, can endure every suffering however intense, and look forward to the scenes which are before me with quietness and tranquility.

O my young friends I can reach your ears, I would that I could reach your convictions; I would that you might be led to see the Christ spirit in the Mother, that you might catch the fire of inspiration from her eye, and consent to let her maternal hand guide you thro' the uncertainties of life — I know something of the magic of a Mothers name to the natural mind, I know something too of its spiritual application — What bliss can equal that of the natural mother when her maternal heart is gladdened by the return of the child whom she deemed lost

And if such a circumstance can create such a joy amid the cold realities of earth, how deep, how pure, how intense

how thrilling must be the bliss of our spiritual Mother when she sees the prodigal ones of earth returning to that home where naught but the peaceful that can enter and all earths griefs are banished — Many a babe, many a bud of prom ise which Ann Lee, nursed in the winter of her earthly sor row, now wears the most radiant smile of angels — a smile undimmed by any tear of sin and suffering

Soon my young friends the sleep of death will come upon you, and waft you like a poppy spell to another sphere and if, as you near the blue of the bright and shining arch above you, you would clasp your hands for joy, and feel the renovated bliss of innocence and unchanging beauty, if you would feel the calm influence of soft music swelling around you like the murmur of sunlighted waves on a summer sea; if you would bathe in the glory of radiant galaxies & rejoicing worlds, and travel in calm and holy majesty amid the unshaded beauty of the upper sanctuary, if you would live in those star lighted homes where innocence dwells, amid the sweet echo's of spirit songs, and the faithful desciples of the cross wander thro' peaceful vallies, which lay in the rosy light of heaven as calmly as the clouds of summer when folded in sleep; if you would be denizens of those float ing islands of glittering beauty where troops of Cherubims wor ship God and mingle their hallelujahs in one, if you would see the little ones of the true Mother sailing like snowy clouds around their spirit homes, and clapping their transparent

hands in token of welcome to each redeemed soul that enters there; if you would kneel in the heaven built temple of light, and offer the insence of a trusting heart unto God; bear testimony to your own manhood, to your own womanhood, by making the strong will, the bold hand & the daring foot fulfill their destiny — Create your own sphere, bend life time and fate to the high purposes of God — Why should you stand like fallen priests and priestesses who have broken their vows and are followed by the avenging spectors. Why should the evil genius of lust ever be hovering over you. and planning some new mortification in return for every noble deed prompted by your better nature? Why should pride by the fluttering of its black wings, down you to an existance of misery, which would otherwise be bright as a summer day?

You are a ray from the Eternal, all loving in his manifestations — a spark of Divinity all protective in his works You see not in this life the end of human actions, their influence never dies; every morning when you go forth you lay a moulding hand upon your destiny, and every evening leaves some deathless impression upon your character

O my young friends I would that these truths were written in broad letters upon your forheads, that they were pasted in sunbeams at the corner of every street, that they were graven with the point of a diamond upon every human heart, that they might pass in tones of thunder from

tongue to tongue, from land to land, and finally rolling thro' every clime bring an humbled world to the knowledge of God —

However lightly you may esteem this days privilege however slight may be the impression these truths may have made upon your minds. an humble child of Zion has this day unfolded to you the charter of your rights, has presented you with an epitome of your hopes, and a record of your glorious privileges; she has told you that your life is but the vestibule of glory, and death the dawning of your immortality — If you are true to the principles of the gospel, nothing can tear you from Christ, nothing can seperate you from your destiny. It is yourselves that must scatter the clouds which gather around your path and bid the light of heaven to shine upon you with augmented splendour —

O I pray that you may be led to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus; that you may be made Christ like in character, in dignity and pursuit. I pray that you may be made Kings and Priests unto God, that for your employment you may worship God day & night in his temple, and for associates have all the hosts of the Redeemed with the ten thousand times ten thousand who stand before the throne. and are led by fountains of living waters. and finally be presented spotless before the presence of Gods glory with exceeding great joy — to whom

everlasting praise and thanksgiving, might and remain forever.

At the conclusion of the preceding the following was addressed to the Believers.

My brethren and sisters, there is a bond of union between kindred spirits however distant, there is a sympathy between the virtuous however seperated, there is a heaven born instinct by which the faithful children of Mother become at once acquainted, and are enabled to read in each others countenances the lineaments of their divine parentage; and it is the realization of this sentiment, which makes me feel as much at home in your midst, as tho' I were in yonder bright home where every object gives birth to some sacred thot, and where the loveliest pictures of eternity rise before my enraptured visions — This is one of the most happifying moments of my real life; to my own soul beating responsive to the pulsations of those hearts whose experience I am at this moment gathering, and the gushing forth of whose love is the unmistakable evidence that I am recieved as a sister in your midst —

I would not address myself to your weaknesses, but rather bind up your being in the chords of strength & and firmness. I would not speak to you thro' the dark and sickly relics of a superstitious past, but rather shine upon your path in the radiant light that streams from the unfailing future — I would not throw a shadow over the happy

scene now before me, did not a sense of duty and the requirements of my mission, leave me without alternative

However diversified may be the trials thro which you are called to pass, you have a burning and shining light an exemplification of faith and patience in the life and character of your dear Mother; and whether you contemplate her in prosperity or adversity; whether you remember her unshaken confidence in the truth and promises of God, or her songs of triumph in the midst of persecution & suffering you become rich in heavenly things, the very remembrance of her virtues leave a sanctifying influence behind them and as you pass thro the deep baptism, with which she was baptized; the stern integrity, the untiring industry and the spirit of self annihilation which were shrined in all their burning luster in her soul, are transfered into yours. and the beautiful robe of humillity which was thrown around her in such foldings of richness and grace becomes the badge of your discipleship — As the flowers love the light, as the night loves the stars, as the earth loves the sun, so I am not ashamed to own that I love my Mother — It is but one thing to love her and live — Fearful as be the conflicts thro which you are called to pass, terrible as may be your buffetings upon lifes sea and deeply as grief may be destined to lay its scourging hand upon you, you rest assured that Mother's children are not left to writhe in the unspoken revelations of pain unguarded & unwatched —

When a cloud crosses your horizen she places a bow of promise there; when you are tossed by the conflicting elements of passion she puts a golden anchor into your hands, she is your sun beam amidst lifes tears, a rainbow amidst its storms; a harpstring wringing joy out of death, a star whose love is changeless and thro eternity shall burn as holy as when first lit

My brethren and sisters you are urged to the high and important duty of holiness by the assurance that without it no one can see the Lord, and by the announcement that they only who endure to the end can be saved — Too little do you consider the immeasurable magnitude of these truths; too seldom do you warm and stimulate your slothful souls at that altar where the remembrance of Christs humilliation would shame your pride, where your souls would be melted in tender solicitude under the sweet influences of a Mother's compassionate solicitude and sympathy, and an entrance abundently administered unto you into the Kingdom of God — O let me entreat you to examine yourselves, for we fear there are some who have not laid themselves as whole-burnt offerings upon the altar, their intercourse with God is cold and distant, there is a want of freedom, of frankness and of enlargement in the spiritual exercises, they do not realize a living and present Savior in their daily walks, they have but few manifestations of his love to make their souls burn within

them; they live too much in the world to drink of those waters which make glad the city of God; or to be regaled with that fragrance which comes wafted from the garden of spices

They do not see Mother as the chief among ten thousands or the altogether lovely; They do not conform in all things to the directions of her divine directory; the mantle of worldly enjoyments still hangs around them; whereas if they were true branches of the living vine, there would be a oneness amongst them; they would not travel from the turnpike road of duty, they would not wander into the by paths of their own selfish inclinations, but standing like faithful sentinels upon the watchtowers of Zion they would be able to sweep their fingers over the chords of a sweeter harp than Miriams, and to sing not the song of Moses, but the Lamb — The sublime principles of the gospel as you have had them handed down to you are identified with all that is good, they are associated with all that is lovely, they are inseparable from all that is holy they are allied to all that is pure; they are connected with all that is happy — They embrace all that is essential to your best interests; in them you will find a remedy for all your disorders; they are a well of salvation designed to purify and bless; and if you do not value them above all things else you are chargeable, and justly too with ignorance the most profound, with error the most pernicious and with falsehood the most criminal — O my

soul has oftentimes travailed in pain for you, as I have come to worship with you beneath this lowly roof where the mercy of the despised Nazarene is offered unto you and where your souls may swell-in the hallelujahs of praise, or pour out their sorrows in the tears of repentance and contrition — Yea we have often mourned over those who are hankering after a conformity to the world; after those things, which like Pharaoh's lean kine eat up every thing that is holy and serious and humble; which leave you like Sampson, shorn of your strength and which ultimately end in a wide and gross departure from the living God —

The summer comes and passes, the harvest comes and goes, and you are not saved, and at last the thief procrastination will come in and rob Mother's crown of a jewel; heaven of a soul and Angels of a triumph.

O let the example of the first born encourage you, they had many embarrassments to encounter, many difficulties to contend with, and for Jerusalem's sake they could not rest, untill its righteousness shine in their own souls, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth — Their delight was in the law of their God; the world had no charms for them, Christ was the anchor of their souls, to him they lived, in his cause they laboured, and in the possession of the pearl of great price they died

Remember my Brethren and Sisters you are enlisted under the banner of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, that your great work is to battle with yourselves, and to contend, and earnestly too for the faith once delivered to the saints — If you have a realizing sense of this you will see the necessity of shunning all entanglement of laying aside every weight, of dispensing with every vain glory, and of running with patience the race that is set before you — There is assuredly a dividing line between safety and danger, beyond the boundaries of the former there is a pit into whose dark bosom many have fallen never again to regain their former position — O I fear you do not fully realize the meaning of my words, I fear you do not realize the responsibility involved in your privileges, I fear you are not sufficiently familiar with that altar where the soul wearied with the care and perplexities of life, and sorely beset with the temptations of life renews its strength — O if there be a scene upon which angels gaze with delight, if there be one transaction on earth in which they feel more interested than another, it is to behold you in the act of holding intercourse with your God thro' the medium of his witnesses — It was at this armory that the first believers were equipped with those weapons which proved mighty thro' God to the pulling down of strong holds; it was here they were panoplied for their spiritual conflict, it was here they were made

invulnerable to the attacks of the great adversary of their souls, it was then that like Jacob they wrestled with God for a blessing, and not only wrestled but obtained it, and under its influence were enabled to bear the storms of persecution which beat unrelentingly upon them — And does it become you to lightly estimate this altar, to undervalue its privileges, or neglect your approaches unto it? Does it become you to refuse to imitate their example and thereby fail to attain to the same degree of faith and purity which distinguished them? May heaven avert the fearful consequences of spiritual barrenness that ever follow such an indifference to this great duty

Worldly enjoyments can never satisfy your souls, when you are out of the ark you know you have no rest; there is an aching void, which no created thing can fill

Temporal objects are not suited to the aspirations of the immortal spirit; all things have an element best adapted to their nature, and the element of every true christian is the approving smile of his God —

One admires the Divine science of Christianity for its morality and wisdom, another for its jurisprudence, another for its spotless purity and for its crossbearing and selfdenying principles — The mere moralist would fritter away the new birth with water baptism, the daring sectary would rob Christ of his glory and rejoice in the sacrilege; the pharisee would tear the brightest jewels of grace from

Jehovah's crown; the rational philosopher would deprive the gospel of reason, the cold hearted formalist would divest it of truth, the lattitudinarian of strictness, the bigot would strip it of candour, and popes of simplicity; and at last christianity would fare like the beautiful statue left in the gallery for inspection, every beauty would be effaced and the whole become one foul blemish. But will you give up the elevated the sweet, the seraphic joys of evangelical piety to the frozen hearted moralist, the captious deist or the stiff pharisee?. Will you lay the noblest emotions of religion the purest honors of the cross, the lovely and soul ravishing fruits of the spirit at the feet of Zeno or Epictetus? Will you measure your religion by a standard borne from the uninflamed philosophy of the ancients, or the fastidious nominal christianity of the present day?

You can never step from a sofa to the skies my Brethren and Sisters, The life of the true believer is not one of uniform tenor, quietness, and peace, he must have his conflicts with the enemy, his struggles with a corrupt nature; and the cross brings a greater revenue of praise to the Divine glory, adds a more enviable lustre to the power of true religion and heightens your final deliverance from sin more than a tranquil travel in the gospel ever can

O we love to see the genuine exercises of the awakened soul to hear the deep sighings of the penitent, and the groans of the old man struggling for victory— We love to see the gar-

ments of the warrior rolled in blood, to see the rocks of his obdurate nature rending, the graves of corruption opening and the dead in sin coming forth to spiritual and divine life — We love to behold the prolonged warfare of the flesh on the one hand, and the strong energies of the soul leading on to victory and peace, to happiness and salvation, We love to see you struggle and fight and watch and pray, and finally turn the battle to the gate of glory, by adding courage to your faith —

It is hard to do violence to a corrupt nature, but harder to do violence to reason, and concience and the dictates of Gods spirit in the soul —

It is hard to bear the crosses and trials, the denials and mortifications of a life of piety, but harder to bear the remorse of a guilty concience, with all its appendages of fears and gloom, of anticipated hells and miniature judgements — In making war upon the orders of the gospel you make war upon your own peace, whereas a simple and childlike obedience to them brings a rational and satisfying delight, pure as the silver moonbeams and calm as the heaven of which it is an emination —

Christ wore a crown of thorns, life to him was not a rest, an idle gladsome day; he gave himself no rest from works of love but roamed a homeless wanderer over Canaan's hills — Hungry — poor — derided — scorned, his patience failed not, but all these ills he bore cheerful and calm as the

no woes beset him — May you in all your trials be made to exclaim with him, "not my will O God - but thine be done" May you be like him, tho' the likeness be wrought out slowly and amid much chastening; may you be like him in practice, and take no rest untill your salvation is achieved and finished — He told you the world is not your rest, but that thro' deep tribulation you must press on to the realm where he dwells, and there find rest a glorious rest forever at his feet — Be thankful that he has in some degree granted you to know the fellowship of suffering — Trial is a needful process - therefore be ye reconciled and leave the issue in the hands of him, who is all truth, all love - all power, and he will polish the rough and shapeless stone into a jewel of fadeless grace, and meet for Mothers Diadem

Outside Religion by Elder Rufus. H. Hanson medium

In the human mind there is a natural tendency to walk by sight; the visible things of earth have more influence over most minds, than the invisible things of heaven; and they are more inclined to dress the outside appearance, than to cleanse the inward fountain; and it is to be feared that there are some even in Zion who are satisfied with that religion which gives them a name among the people of God, while they are destitute of the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit —

The fruit is artificial an outward reform accomplished by outward means, it pleases the fancy, it gratifies the taste; it is polished into a profession of Christ, but is devoid of those acts and feelings which tend to humble the soul before God, and crucify the old man with his deeds — The true children of Mother are not destitute of the outward characteristics of the christian; their joys like a mountain rill flow from an invisible source, or like the fruit of the vine is nourished by an unseen root — Outside religion never works in, but inside religion always works out

If you are careful to retain God in your thots if you love him with all your hearts, if you enjoy his fulness and are led by his spirit as manifested in your lead, you are strangers to lifeless forms and cold speculations, and enjoy within yourselves that kingdom of heaven which is righteousness and peace —

It is often our lot to mourn over those who begin well in the commencement of their travel, but when trials & mortifications overtake them become cold and lifeless; as the enemy like a staunch

murderer, ever true to his purpose, pursues them close thro every avenue of life, they yield little by little, till at length with a death like grasp he coils around their souls and chills the vivifying influences of the spirit —

We grieve that there are some in Zion who once had a clearer evidence of their justification than now; when their meat and drink was to do the will of God, when love filled their heart to overflowing and urged them on their journey with holy cheerfulness, when every blessing seemed a gift from heaven, around which their new born souls threw the full force of their hallowed affections —

But where have they been since? Where are they now? Are not their thots more inclined to the world, than in days that are passed? Are their words seasoned with grace as in former times? Are they as watchful lest their thots should be impure, and their words be evil? — Be not deceived — Think not you are walking with Christ, if you have less intimacy with his orders than before, but rather endeavor to live as when you first embraced the gospel of your blessed Parents, and felt it to be the power of God unto salvation.

Seek my brethren and sisters to be led by the spirit as in the days of full submission to your lead; let divine love and godly sincerity characterize all your doings; let the gospel in word and in spirit guide your whole course, and no longer give us cause to mourn over the desolation of Zion — You can not be saved without a struggle, you can not exchange the old man for the new in the pleasant and easy manner you imagine

Representing religion as a garden of flowers, as a feast of dainties, or as a world of amusement may do for the natural man but will never lead the soul to the blessings of regeneration

Nay, you must submit to God in all things, and must not flinch if called to fill up the measure of your days with suffering and reproach. — You must turn your hearts from the things which are visible, resist the propensities of your nature, submit to the orders of God and be ready each day to endure a martyrs conflict: and when you see a man teaching a smooth way to become a christian, to become religious by a little outside polish and trimming you may set such an one down as a traitor to the cross.

Reliability of Spirits by Annie Hanson. H. Hanson Medium

I promised a few days ago I would give you some of my views in reference to the reliability of spiritual communication, and in compliance with your desire I will give you as plain a solution of the thing as my travel enables me to impart

You for instance are accustomed to contemplate other natures thro the medium of your own; your impression even of the external forms, are determined not less by the nature of the organic structure thro which they are perceived, than by the nature of the objects themselves — Your thots whether depending upon sensational impressions or upon an inward communion with more exalted beings, are moulded into the likeness of the mind in which they are cast — Thus you think as you are; or in other words as a man thinketh so is he

From whatever source you may draw your ideas, the structure of the brain, the nervous system, and a variety of outward conditions greatly modify all the forms of thot — A thousand images steal from the vast unknown, and dance before you like pale shadows in dimly lighted halls and then glide noiselessly away; and these in their variety and aspect of form as much depend upon the organic medium thro which they pass, as upon the objective reality — You disclose your own internal qualities, rather than the specific attributes of things you attempt to unfold

You may fail to make a revelation of truth as it relates to the object which impresses either your physical or spiritual sense; then

shadows may be perfectly defined before your outward vision, but in your effort to transfer them you necessarily tho unconsciously perhaps reveal yourself — In all ages revelations from the spirit world have been essentially modified by the physical and mental characteristics of the persons thro' whom they have been given to mankind

In the process of communication the elements of two minds are blended, and the revelation is the result of their mingled action and the thot tho directly inspired, is left to be invested in most cases by the mind of the medium, from which it takes not only its coloring and clothing, but its specific form —

I have more controll over you, than any other spirit but it is very rarely that I can govern you so far as to embody my thots in language of my own selection

Therefore it follows that as the language of revelation is chiefly of earthly origen or human dictation, and only the spirit and truth it contains is inspired, a rigid adherence to the letter of revelation is not only unwise, but subversive in a high degree of its spiritual claims, while it is most emphatically condemned in the New Testament where you are exhorted to try the spirits and see if they be of God

But from all this it can not be alledged that modern revelation has no claims to a spiritual origen, because they bear a close resemblance to the minds of the media — That a resemblance is discoverable we can not disguise, but this is by no means sufficient to invalidate the peculiar claims of a communication

since the human mind of necessity stamps its image and superscription on the truth of which itself is the vehicle— The inspired idea may be heavenly in its nature and origin, but to reach the dull ear of sensuous man it must be molden in the form of human thot and find utterance in the imperfect speech of mortals— The Divine light is ineffably glorious, but the rays from the spiritual sun are obscured or intercepted by dark clouds; or what is worse grotesque shapes come and mirror themselves in the soul

The living waters issuing from the Eternal Throne, are clear as crystal, but they flow down to you thro earthly channels, and this contact with gross elements will sometimes render the stream impure— Thus however infallible the immortal thot may be in its self considered, yet infallibility does not attach to the instrument or to the modes of expression— What ever faculty is most ~~ridgedly~~ frequently & vigorously exercised, the direction which his or her thots are most prone to take, will necessarily determine the specific form of a communication— Thus a revelation communicated thro the medium of the human faculties will recieve its particular shape & coloring from those powers of the individual mind which ordinarily determine its thots and actions

Agreable to this view of the subject it will appear on examination that the various manifestations, especially those which are written or spoken from mental impressions, exhibit in a greater or less degree a conformity to their accustomed modes of thot and style of expression and this is sometimes so striking as to awake the suspicion of many

minds that the communication originated with the media themselves

In the intercourse of human society all thought is expressed after the manner of men — Hence, tho the Angels inspire you the words are earthborn and bear the images of beings like yourselves. Inspiration flows to you thro impure channels and is ultimated in the imperfected capacities of mortals and that human mind does influence while in the body is a fact which can not be denied — When the imagination predominates, the communications are couched in metaphorical language and the subject is invested with poetic imagery

When the purely ideal faculties have the ascendency the inspired thought is ultimated in a corresponding form and clothed in words that have a logical fitness and propriety

In some instances the spiritual influences conjoins itself to the self love of the medium, and finds expression in the most extravagant pretentions and offensive egotism, while those in whom the sentiment of veneration is most conspicuous is constantly moved to acts of devotion — This blending the elements of human feeling and thought with the souls divinely inspired impression is illustrated in all the revelations of the past — It characterized the revelations of Moses, and in the government of an ignorant and idolitrous people was chiefly called to act in a legislative and executive capacity, hence he found it necessary to awe a superstitious people into submission & Sinai was veiled in thick clouds & stricken with thunder blasts

Thro' the Poet the spirit of inspiration finds expression in song, and existence in his mind is rendered extreemly grand and brilliant by the lofty inspirations which people the future with images of glory — This attribute determines the character of their revelation eloquent with the prophecies of a future era.

Our Blessed Mother whose humble life and death were more glorious to humanity than the conquest of a thousand worlds, was preeminent over all in the idea of a pure life and conversation. And the jarring discords of the world and the noise of passions her soul was at peace — A spirit quickened by divine fire, love that consumes the deepest resentment, and forgiveness that coexists with all human error were conspicuous in all her revelations and will be in those of all her faithful children — When the world was faithless and disobedient, she stood alone sublimely great in her solemn trust and immortal fidelity.

That halcyon peace of the soul, that deathless love of humanity, and Godlike forgiveness of the erring were inherent in her revelations and will be in those of her faithful children they were the revelations, the Laws of Love.

A communication from Annie Hanson in public meeting

Reform reform is the watchword

Among the eager and earnest crowds who are pressing along the highway of life. there are many bearing the name of reformers who have suffered themselves to be drawn aside into bypaths, when the further they are followed the more tortuous they become. and finally end in a labryinth from which it is difficult to escape — In all professions there are many running here and there after nonentities and loth to give up their cherished opinions; they are floundering and struggling & groping after things which do not exist And again there are others alas! whose whole idolatry is trade and money, who would repress every generous and crush every bounding hope of humanity mock every aim for its elevation, check its developements and baffel every effort for its improvement — Reform my friends is a constituent element of your nature, it enters into your very being, and associates itself with all your plans and conceptions — It is not true it has just awoke from the slumber of ages, the political demagogue is in his line a reformatory agent, his views and efforts tend to the success of his particular creed or party over that of his opponents, he contends that he is right and others are wrong, others contend that they are right and he is wrong, and thus the world has gone on for ages; but it can not be denied that the spirit of reform has been largely and more favourably developed in the present century than in any former era ~~in~~ the history of the world, and the great the important question is, what is the work before us?

It is not my friends to create that spirit anew, it is to purify to elevate and direct its noble influences, it is to look up above the political and sectarian predjudices into the throne of God from whence the spirit of reform eminates; and to seek for those with whom you freely can unite in a mission of mercy.

This spirit of reform is not a political, nor even a social, but a moral element whose object is to establish the two great principles of what is really right and what is really wrong; and to make these principles the touchstone to which all your actions and conceptions shall be brot in order to ascertain their parentage, and this is the reform which the Shakers are endeavoring to accomplish.

They recognize no political theory or practice, no social organization founded upon or into which is incorporated a moral wrong; their foundation is a rock of moral adamant, against which the storms of party are destined to be broken in pieces, upon which the waves of persecution harmlessly dash and which amid the fall of empires and the crumbling of thrones shall remain the same adamantine rock of strength and endurence, capable of being polished, smoothed and beautified, but proof against every process of natural destruction.

Let us for a moment examine the various systems by which mankind have sought to govern themselves in days which are past.

In the first place there was a patriarchal government, in which a whole nation or community constituted one family mildly ruled by a Patriarch or Father. Every action and law was referable to a moral standard and right was intended to be law — But the tendency

of the natural man is to retrograde morally; a little power begets a desire for still more perfect controll, untill at length Kingly power became established, with unlimited authority upon the throne of empire — After this there was another advance. From Rome went forth a spiritual power which swallowed political governments; the Church ruled the state and the law of Popes and Cardinals was supreme

Again with the reformation of the sixteenth century another spirit arose which attempted to detach political from religious rule and in Western Europe a democracy of the people sprung up and made rapid advances — Yet all these various steps were taken thro' the reformatory influence, and tended as the people then supposed to the greatest good of the greatest number —

At length America became the land in which a new experiment was to be tried, an experiment destined to eclipse in moral grandeur and sublimity all the heathen experiments of Greece and Rome

Moral and political rights apart from religious intolerance and rule led the way to a more enlarged and consistent liberty; the spirit of reform moved thro' the halls of State and entered every rank and grade of society. Mind set free knew no limits to its efforts, it became the supreme ruler untill a new despotism arose, and with it arose another spirit of reform; but its direction was wrong; the moral element was not sufficiently developed

Thus from age to age to the present day mankind have been tossed about by every wind of doctrine like a ship in a storm — Most of the reformatory experiments of the day are misdirected moral

experiments— One religious and political organization after another has taken the field succumbing to or seeking to rule the State— In all of them is incorporated a range or degree of the moral element; one by one they rise and fall like the waves of the Ocean and men wonder why they fall—

Gold and endowment rule the state; political intrigue and corruption are the rage of the times; there is little to choose between the parties of the day, for they are all of them endeavoring to negociate a new loan to sustain their sinking fortunes— But the system of abuse now rampant in this as well as in other governments is fast approaching the light of a purer order of things and a new and terrible warfare is on the eve of commencement

Reform— reform is the watchword and fearful of its magnetic influence every party is catching the strain— The moral element is begining to take the lead it has struck the first blow, it will strike the last; and marshaling under the leadership of the people shall ere long show to the world that there can be no political which are not moral rights; they will show that the system of law and government must be cast in a new mould before they can come forth with beauty strength effectiveness and glory

Even America blazing in a sunlight of an enlarged freedom stands in need of reform— the bane of power and the seeds of corruption are planted deep in the soil— The Arnolds of treason of fraud and of despotism stand ready to deliver you up to a worse than foreign rule— the greediness of party has swallowed

up all patriotism, and trampled upon the constituent elements of your manhood, the arm of retribution is stretched out and is not only ready to avenge the enormities which are being perpetrated under the very folds of your stars and stripes; and also to unfold that mass of rottenness and corruption ~~and rottenness~~ which is concealed beneath the very platform upon which a Washington poured forth his burning eloquence

The Judases of party have kissed the grave and would if they dared, drag his ashes from their resting place and sell the birthright of liberty for less than an Esau's price — Is not this so my friends? Is not office which should by right be the gift of the people, bot and sold to the highest bidders? A good man will ~~barely~~ enter the arena of politics because forsooth, he will not buy what virtue and merit ought alone to command

The wretched and unholy miscreant who will sell himself for a song, treat his constituents with rum, lick the dust from their feet, and hug a serpent in his bosom for the sake of popularity and office — he goes ahead of all others, manages your finances remoddles your laws; and would not only blot out your name as a republic, but would trample the last born child of freedom into the dust of despotism —

Law is worth nothing without a right and a strong public opinion to enforce it; and if the law itself be corrupt of what avail is its enforcement by a dictum which proves itself by its very acts to be corrupt? Public opinion when wrong is worse than no opinion

atall — It must itself be morally right and powerful before it can move in a true direction, before it can take hold of existing evils, and by the omnipotence of its undying strength and glory dig to the end of pollution, and exert an influence which shall be felt from the King to the mendicant, from the president to the slave.

And how, do you ask, is that to be brot about, We answer by the diffusion of high and elevated truths, by the promulgation of that religion which endeavours to increase the virtue, the happiness and energies of community, by so banding the members together in their labours and interests, that whatever there is of intelligence or usefulness in one may be reflected upon the whole; It is to be accomplished by the recognition of the fact that all the members of the human body are dependant on each other, that each individual character has a distinct function to perform which can not be properly discharged except in concert with the varied and reciprocal functions of the whole — it is to be accomplished by imbibing the principles we have espoused and which properly understood will do away the spirit of exclusiveness

The down trodden children of Africa are not the only slaves; you are the slaves to party pride and lust, you are the slaves to the ruling sentiment which forbids you to speak your own thots; you are the slaves to sect, you deem all other lights but your own a hapless delusion, you are fearful of change and imagine that mistakes become sacred by years; you are slaves to inconsistency, you are afraid to acknowledge you know more today

than you did a year ago, because in other words, that would be saying you were once wrong; — you are slaves to ambition and are ready to barter away years of happiness for one brief hour of courtly dalliance with the harlot of power; — you are slaves to avarice and toil which yields you no more than a scanty pittance which is dealt out to every slave on the treadmill; — you are slaves to antiquity — for you put your trust in rotten and worthless dogmas.

And here allow me to remark that the antiquity of past ages was only the youth of the world. It is an inversion of the right order of things to look as many do, for less wisdom now than in previous centuries — There is a delusive homage rendered to the wisdom of antiquity, as if it bore the same superiority over the wisdom of the present as the wisdom of an old man does over the wisdom of a young one — When I speak of the wisdom of an age, I mean the wisdom which at that period belonged to the collective mind of the species; and the species is more venerable in years and experience than it was then. It was only a child before the flood and altho it had not yet reached the years of maturity, still if there are any among us who have not yet cast off their small clothes it is high time to dispense with these nursery appendages.

In imbibing the principles and ideas of modern reformers you are not casting from you the instructions of a higher wisdom but are merely putting away childish things. You may tell me of Moses and David and of Solomon but we

haved to little purpose, if in the course of intervening centuries there have not sprung up some few, at least, who by the additional light shed upon them, have excelled the Solomon of four thousand years ago — I tell you that to the present age belongs a greater glory than to all the ages of the patriarchs I tell you that our generation is a more hoary headed chronicler than any which have gone before, and is more richly laden with the fruits and treasures of wisdom. The olden books and the olden times with which you associate so much reverence being only the season and experience of youth, not the true antiquity of the world

There are two distinct books my friends from which instruction may be drawn, the first of them which is a book of the worlds experience is becoming richer and more replete with wisdom every day, by the perpetual additions which are being made to it and it is well to study its contents

A man would live to little purpose if at the age of thirty for instance, a blight were to sweep over his memory and obliterate the experience and acquisition of the past — The very remembrance of his follies makes him the wiser; and thus it is that one race after another, has gathered a new store of instruction, not only from the discoveries, but from the devices absurdities and errors of the races which preceded them

An experiment may be as useful in its failure as in its success, in the one case serving as a beacon and in the other as a guide; so you see that even from the errors and misgivings of past ages

the most important knowledge may be obtained — So far it is well to be informed by the wisdom of antiquity; but you must reserve a free and independent judgement, and in making a retrospective survey must so compare things together as to be able to seperate the right from the wrong and when that seperation is made to progress accordingly —

The other book which is the book of God's revelations is likewise the accumulated product of ages, but being a book of moral instruction and dictated by a higher faculty than the natural man can lay claim to it requires your most serious consideration, but even here you must exercise your own God given reason, and not allow it to exercise the authority of absolutism over you

From the first of these books we learn after the experience of six thousand years mankind have not yet attained to that happiness they were intended to enjoy; they have comprehended but little what was meant by individual, universal social harmony, they have not realized that heaven was God's world reduced to order

Thousands who have spent their substance in riotous living are now famishing for the bread of life, and thousands more are seeking for satisfaction in the husks of sectarian zeal — They long for the truth, they hope for future good, and is there nothing better for them? Are they ever to be augmenting the discordant notes of antagonizing interests? The whole creation has groaned and travailed in pain together untill now waiting

for the redemption of the body, for those manifestations which have been vouchsafed to us and which have carried us out of the discords peculiar to our natures.

You live my friends in an age of great developements; the most interesting and important of which, are those that are demonstrating the immediate presence of the spiritual world.

Men are really outgrowing their exclusive notions as they are outgrowing the garments of their childhood. They are begining to see that all the hypocrasy of Popes, Cardinals & Bishops, that all your convocations and conventions, that all the faith of the sectarian world, has not been able to check the progress of crime and suffering; they are begining to feel that the race must sustain some closer relation to the Divine Father than has been generally recognized; and if they come to make the true distinction between true religion,—between the divine spirit in man, and what has passed under the name of christianity they will soon discover in what that relation consists.

Under the influence of a false religion the race has remained undeveloped: they are merely external, their spiritual senses have not been perfected, they are more theoretical than practical, more sectarian than liberal, there is more slavery than freedom, more belief in evil than in infinite goodness, more respect shown to wealth than to goodness or reason. But since the race had to be born in order to be, and being born had to become a child, does it follow that we are never to put away

childish things, but to be ever dangling in the apron strings of our grandmothers? Why then adhere to the writings of one man or book? Shall we progress in years and not in wisdom? Shall we advance in science and stand still in true philosophy Shall we improve in all things except those which bring us near to the Infinite Father?

There may be and are errors in the Bible but not so much as in the views which sectarians entertain of that book; it does not claim to be infallible either in its language or in the ideas it gives of God, and the belief that it is so, is an error that has crept into the minds of men since the last page of that book was written — It is a peculiar characteristic of the sectarian world at the present day that they manifest a great deal more anxiety about having the language of the Bible punctuated correctly, than they do to obtain correct & accurate views of human nature thro whose instrumentality every book is written

A great many people look upon the Shakers as mystics, fanatics or infidels — be it so — for it has been said by one of heaven's noblest spirits that "great Believers have always been styled infidels" and if these epitaphs only serve to remind us of christian principles, and arouse us to the consciousness that we are the determined opposers of injustice and wrong it is all right — One thing I assure you of, my friends that in porportion to our faith in Gods unsullied love is our loathing of the way in which that God is daily and

devotedly blasphemed by the mercinary panderers to popular cant and bigotry; and rather than mankind should grow up in such insanities, and rather than the fair soul should be depraved by such ridiculous monstrosities, it were better that that the name of God be blotted from the records of time, and the sacred name of humanity alone held in reverence—

Is there any mysticism in this? To believe in the immortality of all men and in eternal happiness, to become enlightened concerning ourselves, and the spheres of the human mind, to the end that we may grow in personal unity and give to society a healthy constitution— Is this infidelity?

To oppose all religious intolerance and wrong, to believe that all books, creeds and institutions are subordinate and inferior to the divine spirit in man, that principle of reason without which all our thots are fancies, and the very universe itself a shadow Is this infidelity? To show forth by our lives that our religion is justice, our law is love— our light truth— our superstructure union— our path progression— our words developements of good our heaven peace and our Father God. Is this infidelity?

To free ourselves from all those restraints, and habits & ceremonies which have a tendency to arrest to prevent and derange the progressive happiness of mankind, to believe that every human spirit is a finite embodyment of the elements of an infinite God, and that every true disciple of Christ is a revelation of the Divine Mind— Is this infidelity?

To divest ourselves of all those artificial forms which deface

the world around us, to draw a veil over the past and date our existence from the present, to inculcate in our practice the principles of purity and holiness to encourage every man to become a law to himself, to make a just estimate of our physical powers and in proportion to our strength administer to the good of the whole — Is this infidelity? To esteem all as brethren and sisters who are sincerely seeking for the truth and who associate with us in our exalted pursuits, so that the whole may represent the individual and the individual the whole — Is this infidelity? To believe that the spirit of man is not perfected after its removal from the body untill it experiences the subduing the chastening and the disciplining influences of the gospel; that the chief employment of elevated spirits is to convey truths and principles to those in the spheres below them, and that their happiness consists in unfolding and developing the elements of their being — Is this infidelity? If it be I will henceforth glory in the name

If my friends, you will bring your reason to investigate the views and opinions of the Shakers you will find that they answer the first problem in social and religious science they cover the whole ground of moral reform and comprehend all that can be asked on behalf of humanity, and must ultimately prove effectual in bringing about that state of things among society and individuals for which the whole creation has groaned and travailed in pain together untill now

No church, no sect, no organization, that leaves out of view the principles we profess can ever become permanent. The world has been organized into a thousand different parties, but they have all failed to recognize the sovereignity of the individual, which is a principle element in man's nature, and is humanity's noblest matter that in this the great day of its resurrection.

My friends there is much in the developements of the present day to encourage you to prepare for immortal joys, but your exaltation in this respect all depends upon your moral nature and disposition to goodness — Existence is a blessing, enjoyments are not shut out from the verriest wretch on earth — all is not misery, nor in the spheres is all purity and blessedness — The moment you do away with the orthodox devil, the moment you do away with an artificial hell, and allow the spirit of man to gravitate to that sphere for which it has an affinity, that moment you allow much enjoyment in the perception of that progress which you must all one day make? And why not commence it now, how long will you remain blindfolded? how long surround yourselves with the adamantine walls of prejudice and not hear? How long will you suffer yourselves to be lulled to sleep in the arms of a false theology? How long shall the pretended guardians of christianity apply the torch to the already crumbling temple of your liberties, and push them to a suicidal death?

How many are broken and goaded and made miserable by the sectarian harness they have been working in so long, and how many more have lost the last spark of human charity in poring over the crabbed tomes of a ridiculous and musty theology — I know that many of you I know were educated amidst corrupt influences, I know that your hereditary organism and social circumstances make an overwhelming plea of mercy in your behalf — God will regard this — the heavens are just and true, but the laws of nature are stern & unyielding

I do not condemn you — even the high places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty, full of those who will gravitate to the lowest position in the spirit world, full of a rottenness and deception, from which the dens and hovels of the poor gather a comparative brightness; and were God this day to strike the balance between justice and judgement, it is not those who are apparently the most polluted that would be proven the most guilty

Religion has been sorely wounded at her own altars; the uncircumcised priest and potentates of the earth have debased it in the eyes of those they have professed to rule and teach; lepers in saintly garb, assassins under the mask of virtue they have committed crimes, at which demons would blush, for they have sought to make mankind think by legislation and believe by the sword — But the day is advancing when all these inconsistencies shall no longer find a place in the camp, to disturb the peace of brotherhoods, and anoint their own rotten and corrupt ulcers at the expense of anothers innocence

My friends it is a strait and narrow path which leads to the temple of all truth, and with Christ for your Pilot you will assuredly find it.

She in whom we believe the Christ spirit has appeared the second time without sin unto salvation, has brought that day to your doors long since foretold by the prophets. She taught us that christianity seeks to perfect individualism in the progress of the race, and that it could never be obtained as long as we adhered to outward forms or human traditions.

Toiling thro a life of trial, she confirmed the feeble, cheered the desponding, and for the purpose of harmonizing soul with soul, she trampled human dogma's beneath her feet and assured us by her own history and character, that the gospel needs no creed to expound it, but a pure heart practically impressed with its truth.

Many true and noble minds are looking for the kingdom of heaven to be permanently established upon the earth; they are looking for the dawn of that day when lust and pride shall no longer impede the free exercise of the human mind, but purer and holier affinities unite man to his fellow — To us the kingdom has come; the veil is thrown aside that shut the spirit world from our view; the dogma's that seperated the children of one common Father has been abandoned, and this kingdom is more to us than ever Mount Zion was to the Hebrews; it is a Sabbath to our trusting hearts

The old world my friends is passing away; it is dissolving

in all its parts ecclesiastical, philosophical, dramatical and scientifical, the whole fabric is giving away, nor can all the puny efforts of the retrogressive philosophers stay the progress of its decay — Death is written upon its very eyeballs, and men of importance who are seeking to check and revive it are infidels to progress, they have no true faith in God, because they do not believe that he uses the spirit of the age to accomplish the ends of his wisdom

There is a meaning in everything, even in backward movements, for they tell us that systems are dying away, that we must go backwards or forwards, and tho the backward party have the advantage in a worldly or pecuniary point of view, yet they are working on the principle of dissolution, a principle which if like Lazarus it were raised from the dead today would dissolve again tomorrow, a principle which can never rally again, tho by some galvanic process it may exhibit some occasional signs of life

Men can not reform without the principles of reformation, they can not unite without the principles of unity, they can not harmonize without the principles of harmony, and where sectarianism is there all stop out — To deny this and to deny that, to disown this principle and reject that, is sectarianism — Charity believeth all things — Nor is this a metaphorical expression but a magnificent truth, tho' it may require some explanation for a thing according to the vulgar meaning, is just nothing at all — some would call a railway accident a thing, others would call a chair

a thing, but when burnt where and what is it. It is as the cockneys would say—"a thing a that" Aristocracy is a thing Episcapacy is a thing, and Democracy is a thing; but thank God they are things which are destined to pass away

I would not urge the reformer to rush blindly or madly into a vortex of political or social anarchy, but with the clear vision of a prophetic eye, to survey the wide field of prophetic action before him and in the calm grandeur of his Godlike mind move onward and forward amid the crash and ruin of falling institutions untill with the magic—the creative power of love, the temples of celestial truth are reared, thro' whose crystal dome the radience of heaven shall descend to bless and to save

The war between truth and error has hitherto been carried on, between Bigotry on the one hand and Phelantrophy on the other Believe or perish has been the denunciating voice of the church. Arise and be free has been the voice of Reformers— These two voices represent the conflicting interests of the world, the false interest which clings with absurd tenacity to ancient traditions, and the true interest which will propagate the truth in opposition to all existing institutions

Long and eventful has been the struggle; mighty has error battled for the mastery, and with her engines of fear and torture branded her dogma's deep in the heart, but the time has now come when these dogma's must follow in the train of all those errors and superstitions which have vanished before the light of truth

One common sepulchure is prepared for them and by a law which

no authority can resist, and no remonstrance destroy those dark forms which have hovered around the altars of the past must disappear; yea, the very light of truth shall raze the reeling structure of sectarianism, and while many are mourning over their fall the angels of the spheres shall descend to hallow the rising temple of the future with the manifestations of their immeadiate presence

Awake truths great Evangel cries
Awake each sire and son,
From long degrading sleep arise
E'er ruin be begun:
The very echo of a thot
With universal meaning fraught
Has many a battle won.
O, can you stoop to what you are
Chained followers of delusion's car?

Have ye not lavished health and life
At mad ambitions call
Have ye not borne the brunt of strife
Unbroken as a wall?
Have ye not bled for worthless tools
Priests, placemen, concubines, and fools
Have ye not bled for all?
And will ye in this startling hour
Still slumber in the tempters power

Awake! but not to spend your breath
In unavailing ire;
Awake! but not to deal in death
Crime, carnage, sword and fire
Awake but not to hurl the brand
Of desolation thro' the land
Untill your hopes expire:
Lest vengeance rise amid the gloom,
And push you to a deeper doom.

In pity to yourselves beware
Of battle breathing knaves
Who raise their voices in the air
To congregrated slaves;
Those men who Judas like betray
And lead thro' anarchy the way
To dungeons and to graves
Strong arms can never work reform
Mind, mind alone can quell the storm

Awake! in moral manhood strong
Endowed with mental might
With soft persuation on your tongues
Go plead the cause of right
Let reason center of the soul
Your wild and wandering thots controll

And give you life and light
Then may you hope at length to gain
The heaven ye have sought in vain

O God the future yet shall see
On this fair world of thine
The myriads wise, the good the free
Fulfill the blest design
The reign of truth so long o'ercast
Shall kindle into day at last
Bright boundless and divine
And man shall walk thy fruitful sod
A being worthy of his God

Delivered Jany 30th 1853

A discourse by John Rosseau in Public Meeting

{H. T. Carrier Medium}

One voice has many echoes

This is emphatically true when that one voice however feeble, utters some great truth, or asserts some important right which belongs to humanity — However little some people may feel disposed to award to the human race a moral and intellectual advancement at the present time, it certainly can not be gainsayed that as a whole they have made gigantic advances from their primitive condition, nor do the marches of this advancement date from any fixed epoch in the history of the world, but on the contrary they have been characterized by one gradual steady & unbroken chain of improvement from the time that the globe on which you now stand was ushered into its chaotic existence

From time immemorial new truths have been discovered and new announcements made of the beneficent influence of increased knowledge — The first family in Eden was not without its murderer, nor was the deed of that unholy son more than a mere type of that anarchy and bloodshed which the mosaic records show to have been the prevailing characteristic of the early members of the human family — God is indeed a most consistent contriver, and the great beauty of his works consists in such perfect harmony of arrangement as best to subserve the ends of their various and respective adaptation

Upon all things he has stamped the immutable law of progression — His perfect commandment unto the children of

men was, go forth and multiply; this was the first and it would seem the most essential commandment for the consummation of his then omnipotent designs — They did go forth they did multiply and replenish the earth, and whoever is acquainted with the early history of the race well knows that it is made up of events incident to the violation of the domestic relation of life — This combined with that murderous propensity already alluded to, gave rise to those scenes of wholesale butchery and civil discord which have since cursed the world.

At a later period and on a more commanding platform we find men eagerly engaged in the pursuit of gain and each one striving to rival his fellow in the accumulation of earthly treasure — Here is the spring of that money getting passion which has been stigmatized as the root of all evil, and at this fanatic and besotted shrine millions have sacrificed their manhood and their integrity, Yet its influences have been turned into good, as by the maturity of this element, emotions have been enkindled and faculties enlisted, which would have otherwise laid dormant in the great dome of thought, but which have been eventually called forth to constitute the lever of an incentive to all the great enterprizes of the world which have contributed so largely to the civilazation of the human race

Time will not allow us to examine and discuss the political and ecclesiastical machinery which for ages past has not only arrayed the citizens of different countries, but even the citizens of the same country in hostile conflict against each

other, which has spread civil discord, inflamed sectarian animosity, and loosened and dislocated the very frame work of society and in many points of view thrown them behind the nations of antiquity.

The conquerors for instance of ancient times compared with those of your own, were governed by the laws of truth, justice and generosity, they never soil'd their victories by mean bigotry and cowardly revenge. Nay it has been left for the nations of christendom to stand as an exception to this noble generous feeling of honor and national magnanimity. The feeling which induced the great Lycurgus to lay by his proffered crown; the feeling which made dying Pericles glory in as much as he had never made a citizen to mourn — the feeling which sustained the immortal Socrates in the midst of his trials, and when the doors of his prison house were thrown open, and the sails of the ready ship unfurled bid him prefer death to flight his dignity to his existence —

In your day governments have kept up an interminable warfare with the conquered; they have stereotyped at home and abroad the history of the follies, they have exhibited the red flag of galling triumph in the days of a peaceful and prosperous commerce, they have insulted without provocation, they have put on the armour without necessity, they have threatend the unoffending, and marched in ferocious and fiendish triumph not only over the tombs of the dead, but in derision of the living. Wherever you look among the nations of the earth, you see religion & politics

united together in the indissoluble bands of wedlock; hand in hand they have bowed to the Moloch of party; have sworn to cherish and protect eachother thro' evil and good report, and the legitamate offspring of this monstrous union has been a most hideous progeny of civil discord and religious hatred and untill mankind are bro't under the influence of the gospel, untill this antinational antichristian party spirit is buried in oblivion, you will be doomed to government without obedience to religion without conciences, to laws without justice, to powers without strength to nations without fellow citizens, and to country without home

If you doubt the truth of the assertion, if you doubt the accuracy of the picture, cast your eye for a moment over the map of Ireland and behold the terrific and glowing original in her woe fraught poor houses, her demolished villages, her deserted fields, her crowded emigrant ships, and her gorged churchyards — But you need not look beyound the limits of your own country for an example of that same disastrous spirit which has made Ireland a desert and England a bye word of reproach to the nations of the earth

You need not go beyound the precincts of your own cities for an exemplification of the same party spirit. You hear it from the pulpit, you find it in the jury box, it speaks from your senate, it influences your speeches, it taints your checks it pollutes the blood of the dominant party it tarnishes your colors, it disfigures your flag, it degrades the bar — it enslaves

the press - it is the shame of omnipotent America - the disgrace of her boasted institutions, it is a palpable refutation of all right government, it brands your laws as a public contradiction; it stamps your religion as an organized and public hypocracy; it has undermined the foundations of your greatness it has shaken the bulwarks of your liberties; it has sullied all that gives dignity to your state and happiness to your homes and if an unseen hand had not been interposed, your would soon have fallen into incurable disease and become covered with livid spots of total dissolution

As to the Church - party has been its great recruiting officer. its influence has decoyed millions into the brilliant and licentious halls of bigotry. But there is one spot where this powerful engine of lust and ambition can not come, one spot where she can plant no cypress or rear any trophy, one spot where the business of her butcheries must cease, her efforts be powerless and her energies be paralysed - Tim repulses her with scorn, here the archers with strong bow fail, here the ironsides of sects give way, here the proclaimation of self recieves no triumph, here the gallant Dimpeltions conqueror must lay down his arms, for in our fields waving with the yellow bounties of harvest, in our quiet homes and verdant vallies, he sees the ensign of Jehovah's presence; an ensign not like that which floats over some sacked and plundered city where thousands have played the assassin; not like that which waves over the countless graveyards of the south, where the oppressed and down trodden children of Africa are crowded together in unwept-

solitude, not like those whose stars is paled and dimmed by the blood and tears of the hunted Indian.

The institutions which we charge men with profaning are heaven appointed, Godgiven; the ends to which they look are sublime and glorious— In the midst of abounding iniquity, of wide spread and fiery rebellion, they were intended to assert the Divine authority. Those institutions are now about to be embodied in a new form, to be filled with the essence of immortal life, and in them the laws of the spiritual world in their application to the domestic relations of life are about to be defined. The great mission of spirits at this day, is to present truths which shall be recieved into the chambers of the understanding, truths which shall carry their own authority with them, which shall develope the reason energies of the spirit, and expand the whole interior being of man, but which can only be recieved thro' the exercise of those inherent powers which dwell in every human soul.

In looking over the wide expanse of the world we see myriads of human beings excited in view of realities which they can not comprehend, they are substituting the authority of man for the authority of nature, and of God; they are professing a belief in dogmas which they can not compass, and are cherishing the most fanciful and absurd doctrines as religious & eternal truths, not because they rest on the foundation of a right reason but because they are based upon the authority of human opinion.

Our mission is to set such right, to point them unto that church where the will of God is enshrined in active obedience

to that Church where Christ is commended by the life of a sincere and simple people, as the model of character and center of action — to that church where the perogatives & requisitions of God, the rights and duties of man are presented, in the clear and certain light of undeniable truth — to that Church whose piety Godward animates philanthropy manward — to that church whose influences special and common, whose exertions, ordinary and extraordinary tell you directly & effectively that religion consists in a life of inward purity, as expressed in outward morality — to that Church which has for its purity the whiteness of the driven snow, or for its protection the texture of the mountain adamant — And this church is the Shakers —

My friends, truth and justice can not longer be what they have been, mere figures of speech, they are about to become embodied and empowered realities — The world boasts of its civilization but as yet you have only known a material civilization, a civilization resting on the show and pageantry of wealth instead of being based upon an intelligent christianity — a civilization which has paid more respect to the outward circumstances of a mans possession than to the man himself and all the lectures, all the sermons in the world can not change the current and fashion of life so long as property remains the same fluctuating and unphilosophical thing which it now is — so long as earthward looks and downward seekings constitute the great regulators in the affairs of human life

And untill men are under the influence of the gospel of Christ, untill the leveling principles of Shakerism are brot to bear upon society, nation will be pitted against nation, class against class and man against man —

We look upon the nations of the earth and we see a glittering display of sickly degradation, we see the elegance of the Church and the pageantry of the barracks embellished at the expense of a nations beggary and a peoples tears; we have heard the bugle of the garrison summon the aristocracy of the courts and the fashion of the terraces to the coranation of a young pauper; we have seen a people rush panic struck from a land where priestcraft has planted its standard upon the tomb of martyrdom; we have seen thousands rot into the earth which gave them birth, and each setting sun as it lingered in clouded agony over the shroudless corpses beckoned thousands more to follow. But their doom is sealed, their destiny is written in the blood of that people, the handwriting against them is already visible upon the walls of their council chambers & the tapestry of their drawing rooms. — They may pester heaven with their prayers, they may rack God with their petitions; they are known in the heavens as the most promising, yet the most prevaricating of mortals, as the most patronizing yet the most perfidious of men, as the most patenal yet the most murderous of governments; their authority is a nullity, a cheat, a lie, a usurpation and will ultimately prove a penalty and a plague

But my friends God never yet sent a scourge on the human race that he did not accompany with the means whereby it might

be alienated; the same voice which bid the fiery serpent to the wilderness, ordained also that an image should be erected there for the chastised to look to and be saved; the same tongue that foretold in prophetic times the downfall of the antichristian church foretold also that the city should be built, that the vines should again grow on the mountains of Samaria, that the song should again be heard in the heights of Zion and the people brot out of their mourning and captivity with dances and shouts of gladness—

Out of that mourning and that captivity the myriads of the spirit world are now preparing to lead you, if you will act with all the courage that truth inspires— All earthly governments have had their chapter of crime, all institutions their evil susceptibilities; but the one about to be established shall be the pictured and peaceful architrave of the true temple, sacred to truth and to freedom — Love shall be its enduring foundation and the annointing of God its sustaining pillars; in that government the meanest shall recognise his rights to proprietorship; the toil of one shall enrich the inheritance of the whole; their pursuits shall be such as elevate the soul, shall point to what is noble and attach to what is good— Each shall have their distinct mission to perform and in his or her seperate sphere shall contribute to the peace and comfort of the whole community

Sustained by its own inherent strength, governed by unerring wisdom, and ennobled by the simplicity of its people, that people shall not as now be the spectacle of the curious but shall command

universal respect and admiration by the exibition of their virtues and the exemplification of their truthfulness—

The spirits of just men made perfect shall be their teachers, they shall reveal unto them beautiful and important truths and unfold to them the sublimer realities they enjoy in their home. Men as now shall not bow in the weakness of a blind idolatry, and give up the divine right to think and reason for themselves, they shall not cling to creeds as to infallible oracles from which there can be no appeal, nor to popish demagogues as to perfect beings to whose decrees they must bow in reverence, and on whose interpretations they must repose without evidence— Christ shall be the standard of all thot and action; he shall be the only authority from which there shall be no appeal, and his truths shall be presented in so plain and tangible a manner as to allay the fever of excitement and render the mind calm & rational under their investigation

The one great idea which now pervades the dwellers of the higher spheres is the regeneration and redemption of mankind from the darkness and superstitions with which they are surrounded— All other revealments are but elementary steps to prepare them for their final emancipation and to make them susceptable of divine and spiritual impressions, so that they may be enabled to receive truth in its fulness & become acquainted with those established laws which have been the governing principle of the universe ever since the world was made

As you look around you do you not perceive, that the darkness which envelopes you begins, to be relieved here and there by a flash of light from the rosy dawn which proclaims the coming morn of the world's great jubilee? Altho the mighty are scrambling for gold and distinction, tho the proud are boasting in their supposed security, spending their substance in riotous living & turning a deaf ear to the cry of earths suffering children, yet silently as the growth of a flower the everlasting truth is going on its way, bearing upon its tide blessings that shall never perish promises that shall never fail; and before it the iniquitous institutions of the earth shall fall, and the strong and haughty Belshazzers of the world tremble as they are poised in its ballances and found wanting

Truth is not yet down; she is only upon her knees, she is in an attitude of supplication beseeching you to hear her in the still small voice, and if you refuse she is ready to clinch her giant hand and speak in the terrible language of retribution— Unseen agencies have long been acting in divisions but they are now about to act in solid squares— We live in an era of thrilling interest, and amid its mighty convulsions and its upheaving billows the foundations of social peace and order are about to be laid, and tho' we shall have to leave the superincumbent course for happier and more tranquil times there are those among you who shall see the triumphant arches of Zion raised far above the swelling floods of party strife and religious animosity

You are approaching the sublimest crisis in the world's advancement which has ever yet been attained, a crisis which may be truly said to transcend the brightest visions of prophecy, you are occupying a higher point in mind, and mental investigation than ever before, and thousands are enjoying the blessings of a spiritual intercourse, which would have startled up with all the terrors of blasphemy itself, before the contracted bigotry of your puritanical forefathers— You have not only superceded those who have gone before in a commendable zeal for the arts and sciences, but very many are begining to feel that the first commandment of God, go forth and multiply is no longer bindin upon them, inasmuch as it is nothing more than the mere instinctive promptings of all animal nature, and under the gospel dispensation is utterly devoid of a single shadow of the higher functions of their moral being

The great tide of human thot and mental investigation is slowly yet surely rolling onwards, towards the skirts of that celestial season, when your souls shall become the temple of the living God and your globe the arena of miracles when you shall know by experience that your organization is an imperishable truth, which derides the grave, a spirit that is not man but God in man, a veritable revelation, a genuine reflex of Deity

Then shall spirit forms wave and sweep thro' the nerves of your bodies with motions which shall transcend all external movements, they shall hover like doves around your windows

and dreams shall no longer appear as the dull reminiscences of the past. Yielding to the influences of celestial magnetism, you shall go over mountain and wave in search of the remembered objects of your devotion; time business or pleasure shall not trifle with your hopes, joys and sympathies — Love shall not be interrupted by the abrupt changes and arbitrary conditions which now are nor your friendship be violated by a necessity which knows no law.

Pleasing memories which form a chain of sweet associations and a medium of spiritual intercourse, shall enable you to recall those you have met with on lifes pathway and whose influence still lingers around you like a charmed atmosphere or an inspiration of the soul forever. These absent ones shall shine like stars on your mental horizon, and as the eyes of Angel watchers shall illume the darkness of your pilgrim path, and as the sunbeams fall upon the flower that opens its petals to receive the light, so by the benedictions of your guardian spirits shall your souls be quickened into increased life and perfected holiness — These you may think are strange assertions, and that the time is far distant when these things will be accomplished; and well you may, if you take the churches of the world as the standard of morality; for you see the delegated guardians of that church wearing the robes of their office as a masquerade appendage, and preaching not under the influence of the spirit but of filthy lucre; you see them recruiting the legions of bigotry with the very men they

have embraced in the arms of christian brotherhood and tearing the seamless garment of Christ into as many pieces as there are sectarian harlequins to figure upon the pantomime; you see them polluting the purity of heaven with the abominations of earth, and hanging the rags of a pretended piety upon the cross of an insulted Savior; you see them casting up barriers like walls of brass against the progress of truth, and by surrounding certain indulgences of the flesh with the sanction of a Divine Law — they have turned the earth into another Sodom for pollution — another Calvary for human blood

We hate the whine of bigotry as much as any of you, we hold it an accursed and criminal sacrilege to rob even a beggar of a single motive to devotion, and we should hold it an equal insult to our own faith to be offered a boon for its profession; but we can not dethrone our God to deify a demon, and when we see men whose lives ought to be as pure and spotless as the vestments of their ministerial office, professing to be the delegated teachers of Divine Truth, yet going forth as the avowed advocates of rapine and sensuality, we must look upon them as men too morally blind to behold their own miserable inconsistencies or as agents of his Satanic majesty, who going forth with the law of love upon their lips have the dagger of death beneath their mantle, and only await the sigh of piety as the signal to unvein the hearts blood of confiding adoration

It is folly to suppose them possessed of the phrensy of some of those intellectual spirits, who, under a daring delusion, do sometimes

rise into the arch of that ambition, so bright and beautiful yet withall so baneful, as to leave the world in doubt whether to admire or mourn; whether to weep and worship.

O Bigotry thou hast many heads; thou art a wretch which no philosophy can humanize, no charity soften, no religion reclaim no miracle convert. Red with the fires of thy own ambition & bending beneath the accumulated crimes of earth, thou art ready even at this day to erect thy murderous divinity upon a throne of skulls, and feed even upon a brother thy cannibal appetite of thy rejected altar.

But, my friends, there is a church which shows forth the Christian doctrine by its christian practice, the charities of the gospel appear in the characters of its members, for they already breathe the air and are arrayed in the robes of that kingdom to which Christ is leading them. Respecting men without regard to their color, loving them without regard to their country and venerating them tho nursed in poverty and cradled amid difficulties — Their object is to correct the evil and accomplish the good; they tell you that Christ was sent into the world not to irritate, but to heal — not to destroy but to preserve — not to scatter but to gather, like the baptismal dove under the sacred wings of his care and protection, the erring of every clime, creed, or color of the universe.

Verily this people shall be my people, their God my God, their Father my Father their Mother my Mother.

Yea my friends we have got a Mother and all that man can desire in his most spiritual imaginings, all that he can long for

in his highest mood of thot and feeling, all that he can aspire to in the lofty soarings of truth, and all that he can seek for in the most ardent impulses of universal love, are contained in those doctrines which that Mother taught us; because they are based upon the laws of eternal progression — Her religion is not tinctured with that low groveling fear which causes the soul to cringe in servile degradation; it possesses and expansiveness which can never be fully reached; it leads up into unexplored heights and down to unfathomed deeps; it opens to the interior vision a view like that of the snow capped brow of the Appennines, and as extensive as the prospect from its hoary summit

It is not the mere outward temple she seeks to cleanse, it is not the mere external actions she seeks to regulate, her allglorious allimportant mission is to reach and sanctify the inner man to elevate, to purify and expand the soul — When sorrow stretches her dark wing over your bosom, when the clouds of adversity gather around your path, and sin and passion fasten upon your souls, she does not terrify you with the visions of Divine wrath, with eternal tortures and everlasting burnings but in tones of seraphic sweetness, she tell you of the Godlike capabilities with which you are endowed; of the heights of purity to which you may attain, and points you to the broad expanse of that future, where pictured scenes thrill the soul with joy & life immortal breathes in celestial air — To the profligate and vicious she lends a helping hand, she bids them leave the dark abodes of impurity, she tells them to seek a higher ins

piration than the brightest joys that sense can give. And move on with the great wheel of human progress whose vibrations form the sweetest harmonies in eternity, and without whose influence the soul must remain as a broken lute, tho' Angels might condescend to sweep its musicless chords —

To him who adheres to the system which Mother established to him who faithfully follows the requirements of the gospel of Christ's second coming, there are opened inexhaustable sources of joy, he rejoices in the beauty and glory which enter into the mansions of his father — he sees sweet and deathless flowers blooming in eternal spring, he possesses within himself an invisible world of thot, a perfect microcosm of the external universe, a complete embodyment of spiritual elements, and forces; nay more, his soul his one vast organization of refined & etherializd substances, a concentrated hemisphere of life and glory, what you call fancies are to him realities, in asmuch as all the seeming phantoms which people the human soul, are but the undeveloped creations of the inner universe — of the immortal mind, the essence of the invisible fact, the foreshadowing prophecy of all that is made manifest in the outward action, the true picture of the inner life, its truthful thots and its unfading fabrics, whose sublimity and grandeur the gross and material can not concieve

When you think of the developements of the soul, think upon it as it really is, a philosophical reality, not as a theological dogma; lean not alone upon the prophets and apostles of the past, whose words have become hallowed by the shades of time

away with that mysticism, with that miraculous power by which you suppose a change of heart is effected; The soul must be withdrawn from perverting and uncongenial objects and situations, and must be surrounded by influences high & holy in their character before it can bring forth those flowers which Angels gaze upon with delight

If you be men, assert your manhood, if women assert your womanhood; beings so noble, so exalted, so divine were create for a higher purpose than to be cramped within the narrow compass of a sect, you are endowed with capacities too Godlike and expansive to be bound by the shackles of a creed - There is within the depths of your being, an aching void, a yearning which all the popular platforms of the day can not satisfy; you may attempt to concentrate truth within the pages of one book, or confine wisdom to the accumulated volumes of your musty theology; it is absolute folly, for you have only had revealed to you yet a spark of the radiant light of Divinity, only a germ of that truth which pervades the heights of the universe

Arise from your graves of sin and sensuality, awake from the long night of slumber in which you have been wrapped; catch the inspiring tones of light and joy, greet the dawning of the coming Millenium, and onward, onward, onward pursue your destined pathway of eternal progression

You are living in an era when the sublimest crisis that ever dawned on the world's destiny is at hand; you see not one Nation but many, long bleeding, struggling, baptized in blood & tears

and in fire gathering together their strength, and mustering their forces for the great decisive battle of civil and religious liberty. If ever there was a holy war, it is to be this war, a war not of conquest but for the great life principles of humanity & Christianity.

In the view of this awful crisis, in the shadow of this dread retribution Erin stands forth like an inspired prophet, to plead their cause; her children as by electric sympathy call God's blessing upon the apostles and martyrs of liberty, for we know that the first note in their victorious anthem will be, The progress of mind – and their chorus – the universal

Brotherhood of Nations

Delivered Oct 21st 1852

Copy of a Letter written by Father James Whittaker while on a visit to Enfield. Connt & sent to a brother at Hancock

Enfield Feby 25 " 1782 –

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In love to the truth, industry, honesty and faithfulness, as well in the Mammon of this world as the true riches. I write unto thee, to warn and stir thee up to thy duty, in things which are needful for the support and comfort of the body.

Thou art idle and slothful, whereby thy land lays unimproved and pretty much waste, from whence arises want, and is a great burden to the poor man that dwells in the house not far from thee. This is abominable in the sight of God, and will assuredly bring upon thee wrath and poverty as well as the wrath of God in hell.

Thy women with thee, are also idle, hatchers of cockatrices eggs and breeders of lust and abominable filthiness, as well as covenant breakers — What mean ye by these cursed ways and works? Will you bring yourselves not only to want and poverty, but distress those connected with thee in this life, by rendering yourselves incapable of doing deeds of charity which are blessed before God, but also put yourselves beyound the reach of Gods mercy, to dwell in devouring flames in the life to come.

I charge thee before God to mend thy ways — First rouse up thy senses, shake off thy sloth and idleness. And as the time of plowing and seeding is approaching, get thy farm in readiness

negglect no means; see that thou art not wanting in anything; get the out upon thy land, and view what is wanting and what must be done first, what next and so on in order— Go with the man who has the care of thy farm with thee— Get thy fencing stuff; put up thy fences in proper order, sufficient to defend the fruits from devouring beasts. Haul out your manure, plow your land when the season comes, and as much as you can seed and tend with all your strength. Get up early, and, in an active manner, put things in order, that no destruction comes to the business of the day—

Make your women turn out and mortify their lusts, and they will find health to their bodies as well as their souls. And all things do to the glory of God, in all readiness, cheerfulness and faithfulness— And when you have done all you can towards seeding your land for the present season, set yourselves faithfully to put your whole place in order, for you have land enough to maintain three families or more well improved—

Now we charge thee before God, that thou suddenly go about these things, as the negglect thereof will assuredly bring upon thee the wrath of God, and cut thee off from his church

He that is slothful in business is brother to him who is a great waster, and such God hates— And know this, that if thou dost not obey not only will thou be obnoxious to the wrath of God but thou will have no land to improve long, for God is able in the working of his providence to take it from thee

James Whittaker

33 over

Coppied correctly from Father James own hand writing, with the exception of the name of the brother to whom it was sent

This brother left his trade, went onto his farm with his hired man in full faith and obedience, was greatly prospered & blessed in his labours, and died a good believer, at the advanced age of eighty one years —

Copy of a Letter written by Father James Whittaker to his Natural Parents in England

Parts near Albany 20th Feby 1784

Jonathan and Ann Whittaker;

May the grace and love of God, to you be multiplied — I rejoice and am thankful in the remembrance of your coming out of the works of the flesh and your faithfulness Godward — I love you not because you are my parents after the flesh, but because you obey God, and my soul doth wish that you may renew your obedience and be adorned with great & heavenly gifts; it is for your interest to obey God; and there is no end, no place to stand still, nor can any one get so much of God that they can get no more

I greatly desire you to take courage, and go forward, to attain unto a complete stature in the nature and image of Christ, There is an inexhaustable fulness before us, and good it is to see God. Comfort, Peace, and Joy, Triumph and everlasting renown, is the fruit of faithful obedience; but the contrary service, is rewarded with

miserable agonies in the concience in this life, and with devouring fire in the other— All good things are for them who serve God; they may by faithfulness, be filled from the soles of their feet to the crown of their heads, with the Divine Nature. There being therefore such a transcendant fulness of infinite glory, for the faithful, I want you to go forward, with fortitude of soul, that the word of God may flow in your souls like overflowing rivers of living waters. Go forward and abound in love, in repentance, in meekness in humility, in brokeness of heart, in patience, in kindness, in the fulness of all virtue and godliness

Not as tho' I really believe that you have been as faithful as you might have been, for had that been the case, I doubt not, that you would been like bright Angels, by this time, and your savor and utility verry extensive; however your measureable faithfulness affords no small joy to me, in remembrance thereof, and doth beget kind love in my soul to you ward May your pure minds be stirred up and abound in all good deeds, and labour with great carefulness vigilance, and zeal, after the Divine nature— The waters of the sanctuary are risen, and it is time to lay aside every weight, that you may swim with fredom in those waters. Those waters are no other than the waters of love and holiness, the waters of life & happiness; which is the spirit of the God, of glory poured forth in the church for the salvation of lost man; when therefore I wish you to swim therein, I wish you unspeakable sweet love, the most transcendant beauty of holiness; and the most invigorating power of life and happiness—

And now in my own part; great have been the mercies of God towards

me since I left England. He hath preserved me from the dangers of the sea, when, in company with my blessed Mother I came over from thence, in a vessel greatly damaged by striking bottom soon after we came out. Great peace and joy have I had and have I now, in God. I am now in tolerable good health, tho I am under frequent sufferings in body and soul. God hath committed to my trust the ministry of the gospel, in which I have endeavored to be faithful in all things— It is not now more than six months, I think not, since in company with Mother and my dear brethren the other Elders, I returned from off an itinerant ministry of somewhat more than three years continuence, during which time I faithfully preached the gospel, and for it I have been imprisoned, mocked beaten calumniated &c, and have been pursued by cruel and desperate mobs night and day; and once last summer past I was whipped in the most cruel manner, being stripped naked and my two hands tied up, being stretched up above my head; however, God has preserved me in a wonderful manner, and I am at this time dwelling upon my own place, with my dear Mother & brethren, having enough for food and raiment— It is a good country where we now live, and indeed, so is all North America, and any prudent man, may make a good living here, and you John Jackson & Betty Lees, widow to Charles Lees, as I have a great love and respect for you so I greatly desire to see you in this land; it is a spacious country & room enough for thousands and millions; yea, for kingdoms & nations and the soil is good especially inwards from the sea; but why do I talk of that, as tho I would lay a temptation before you, to leave your native

soil and your substance in England? If earthly self prevail with you to come hither, our meeting will not be sweet; there are better motives than that, God has begun his great and strange work in this land, and is carrying it on by swift degrees; and great are the gifts which come thro' Mother to the people –

Forsake then your native country for Christ's sake, and for the churches sake; come and behold the goodly works of God, and enjoy with us rich spiritual gifts of God. If you come with that motive you will be received into the arms of love; and on my part I know it will give me great peace and thankfulness, to see you here hungering after God and his gifts – And you John Jackson & Betty Lees, may the grace of God to you also be multiplied. I thank God for your sakes and rejoice greatly in the remembrance of your faithfulness, I wish also above all things that your souls may be in health, and prosper, and endure the same things I write unto you. I have written to Jonathan and Ann Whittaker, my parents after the flesh, so that I need not write the same things over again, but leave you to the perusal of what is already written, and by all means, if it can any way be forsake your native country and come over into this country for the gospels sake

And you, Ralph Whittaker, Jonathan Whittaker, John Whittaker Ann and Thomas Whittaker to you jointly, and to each singly and for himself, may God be merciful to you and not plead against you with his great power – I am sorry at the remembrance of your folly – You have had the glorious gospel preached to you and great labours have been taken with you; but how have you

informed the one, or the other? – Did you ever obey the gospel? Be it that you have, when a righteous man turneth from his righteousness and doeth wickedly, then his righteousness shall no more be remembered, in the day that he turneth from his righteousness and doeth wickedly; but he shall surely die for his wickedness – Your obedience has been like morning dew; an early cloud, it soon passed away and how wretchedly have you sunk yourselves! Did you but know, and properly sense your loss hereby, you would mourn bitterly – Had you trimmed off every member of your bodies, and cast them away rather than have disobeyed the gospel, your happiness would have been infinite by this time, to what it now is – Why not? For God in obedience to the gospel hath preserved me, for now am I cleansed from sin, and the verry being of lust, and the Divine nature clothes my soul. I daily feel the sweet breezes from Canaans banks, and the pearly drops of fragrant dews, do frequently refresh my soul from time to time. I drink of the diamond springs of Zion's golden mountain, and have access unto the temple of the New Jerusalem, At many seasons I drink, wine, good and well refined, and eat of the goodly manna, plentifully rained down from the realms of glory – Upon pleasant mountains do I ascend and into spacious valleys do I descend, which send forth constantly, most salutary and odoriferous ~~odors~~ exhalations

I have access unto God my Father & to Jesus Christ my Redeemer and tho' I am frequently under great sufferings, yet I rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory – But what do you enjoy or have you enjoyed by your disobedience? Nothing better than the pleasures of sensuallity, which yield you bitterness death & sorrow

And what is it that your souls feed upon? The wind & the dregs and the seeds of damnation! And what is it in its original? Nothing more than the nature of the Devil which is a stinking fire and rotten sulphur; it is that damnable evil which stripped our first fleshly parents of heavenly glory and provoked the Holy One to condemn them to painful labours, & bitter sorrows — It is that horrid monster that put a dagger into the hands of wicked Cain, to slay righteous Abel his brother, & then turned upon him and made him a fugitive and vagabond upon the earth. It is that giant of murder that spread his renown in the old world by violence, bloodshed and slaughter, and provoked the Almighty to bring in the flood and destroy all men, and every living creature under heaven. It is that cursed enemy which slew the thousands of Isreal and made them fall in the wilderness — It is that filthy corruptor which filled the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with abominations and moved God to burn them with fire and brimstone. It is the Anakim of mischief which did all the mischief among the Isralites and Jews in the land of Canaan, and scattered them among the nations to the ends of the earth. It is that Goliath which has spilt the blood of all men from the foundation of the world and laid waste all the little and great cities that have been laid waste upon earth — he it is that crucified the Lord of glory, and infused all diseases into all flesh, this is he that spread all persecution among the saints, and prepares a burning hell for those who serve him. When he is embraced he meditates death & hell to

to the embracer and enters every part of his body and draws therefrom the seeds of life, the essence of life and motion — And it attacks also the soul, separates it from God and throws it into a state of spiritual death. All this is by the strength of his motions and evacuations. What then must his whole substance be? And under the power of this horrid monster you are and held fast by his stinking chords by your disobedience — And he is not far from the disobedient, but is nigh unto them, even within them, and united to them in all their actions — You may then by reason see that your loss is dreadful. Will you then serve this murderer this butcher any longer? If you will mountains of lead will sink you into hell. Turn about then speedily and be cleansed by repentance and then there will be mercy for you and much love. Be persuaded to turn from sin, from lust, the monster I have been speaking of; I adjure you in much love to turn from your evil ways and live — I have not written these things to discourage you but to warn you — I have great pity and love for you, and am not willing you should go to hell — If you will but turn from sin, lust and the way of the world, repenting for what you have done, there is great mercy for you, but if you will not forsake wickedness and lust you will make your bed with devils soon. —

And now to you jointly and to each singly by himself, both my parents after the flesh, other natural relations, and believers in the land, Christ is my all! All earthly glory is as dung and the blackness of darkness before him, and the splendor of the heaven as smoke without him. All my sensations are

swallowed up in beholding his beauty and the powers of my soul captivated in seeing one ray of his transcendant glory— How can Christ be set forth by pen and ink? O his lovely countenance one glance whereof will turn the firmament into blackness and make the sun disappear in its orb— Where I able to set forth a thousandth part of the beauty of Christ. I could astonish all men and wrap them up in superlative love to him. O I love him, I love him I love him. He is the chief among ten thousands unto me, and is altogether lovely, his brightness his beauty is so great that the most elegant discription that can be given of him by language is mere deformity before him— O his love how excellent it is. Surely they are base indeed who will not love such a lovely one, who hath all beauty. O how transcendant bright it is. It fills all things with comeliness wherever it goes and one gleam of it can happify ten thousand worlds and turn hell into paradise— How happy then will be the overcomers in the fruition and open vision of such an unsearchable beauty— When his beauty will be once poured forth like great and mighty rivers when all their sensations and powers shall be ten thousand times enlarged and they enabled to swim forever in the ocean of glory beauty and brightness. O such happiness will they enjoy, that it is worth going thro ten thousand hells to gain it. What vast numbers are in the way to enjoy this unutterable happiness in this land, for the sound of the gospel has reached far & wide and thousands of people have obeyed the gospel call—

Considering we hold up a whole cross to men, even to deny

themselves of every thing of sensual gratification of every kind and a total destruction of the man of sin, it is wonderful that such multitudes have gathered unto us. However the truth we are determined to maintain if none come in; for we will not loose our souls by flattering the people And whereas there are great multitudes gathered unto obedience we hope to see them in the enjoyment of that unutterable & transcendant happiness, in beholding the unequalled beauty of Christ. O did they but a thousandth part sense this happiness how engaged and ardent would they be & what indignation they would have against the ingratitude of carelessness. And what gratitude is due to God in visiting such poor defiled creatures sunk deeply in sin and wickedness O that people did but duly sense Gods goodness in this, how would their hearts glow with thankfulness — For it is beyond all account to set forth how deeply people are sunk in all manner of wickedness and abominations; and it is wonderful beyond description, that so great and glorious a God should condescend to visit such a sunken people. O that people would give glory to God for all his marvellous goodness & mercies, which indure forever, and which are admirably adapted in administering comfort, joy and triumph in all our assemblies. For he does not forget us but maketh his glory manifest among us where ever we go —

I now live with my kind Mother in Israel Ann Lees formerly so called, and the rest, and have all things in common

with those who come into us, and we live in great love and union, blessing and praising God, and beautiful Zion, decked with them who believe

James Whittaker

Copied from his own hand writing